

SPORT

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Lending a hand: Tony Gale, Martin Tyler and Phil Babb (central, back row) at Weston Green, with pupils and teachers.

VIP guests a thrill for Weston

Schools

AN Elmbridge school was thrilled when a famous trio pitched up to open a new facility.

Sky Sports commentator Martin Tyler, together with pundit and Walton Casuals chairman Tony Gale, officially opened a new pitch at Weston Green School, Thames Ditton, with the help of former Liverpool and Republic of Ireland

defender Phil Babb, now manager of Hayes & Yeading United.

To mark the occasion, children aged from 3-11 – from Kindergarten to Year 6 – enjoyed training sessions on the new all-weather surface, along with Hampton & Richmond FC players and coaches.

The afternoon culminated in an official opening, the ribbon cut by Tyler.

Mike Harrison, head-teacher at Weston Green

School, said: "It is a great thrill and a privilege to welcome former professionals as they inspire the children to know that getting to the top is possible.

"The expertise of these high-class players and the new astro will help the children develop their skills and, I hope, inspire them for many months to come.

"We are committed to delivering the best and this certainly has done that"

Former Walton & Hershnam FC manager Alan Dowson, specialist games teacher at the school and now boss of Hampton & Richmond FC, chipped in: "It's been fantastic to see our pupils enjoying the new pitch and learning skills.

"We're all very excited about using these great new facilities, to extend our on-site sports provision. Thanks to Martin, Tony and Phil, especially, for helping to make it such a success."

Stainsby's RYA award winner

Sailing

A WEYBRIDGE sailor is all set for a right Royal party.

Paul Stainsby will be presented with one of the Royal Yachting Association's most prestigious awards by HRH the Princess Royal, president of the RYA, in recognition of his commitment to Queen Mary Sailing Club, Ashford.

Stainsby was nominated for a Lifetime Commitment Award by his club and was picked out as the winner by the RYA Honours and Awards Panel.

He will receive his accolade at the organisation's annual awards ceremony in London tomorrow (Friday).

In nominating Stainsby, Queen Mary SC said of him: "Paul has been a member for more than 30 years and it is his support to Team15 windsurfing that makes his contribution really stand out.

"For the past decade, Paul has been an integral part of Team15, on the water almost every time they have been operating, driving a powerboat and providing safety and race management support.

"Although not a wind-



Karen Stainsby

Worthy recipient: Paul Stainsby, of Queen Mary Sailing Club, helming his RS400 dinghy, crewed by Jackie Wand-Tetley from Staines.

surfer himself, he is always very encouraging to less experienced sailors, helping them climb the learning curve rather than give up.

"He also uses his own racing experience to help the top end of the fleet become high achievers.

"From this QMSC have a regular and enthusiastic group of windsurfers and some top-end racing sailors, with three windsurfers having made RYA national squads.

"In addition, Paul is a

regional race officer and is particularly keen to support youth classes.

"He is very encouraging in his approach to youth events from the manner of the briefing through a flexible approach to race management to acting as rules advisor."

Stainsby said: "I was delighted to hear about the award. I am keen to promote sailing whenever possible, and particularly to encourage youth sailors who have left the zone

squads to not give up but to show there are other ambitions in the sport."

Team15 is an RYA scheme to provide a nationwide network of windsurfing clubs where young people aged 15 and under can get together every week to learn new skills and have a laugh with their friends on the water.

For more information about sailing in the Thames Valley and London region visit www.rya.org.uk/ regions

Hawks fly on south coast to bounce back for point

Hockey

SUNBURY & WALTON HAWKS warmed up for their Southampton University challenge with a defeat, a win and a draw – but had to claw their way back from 2-0 down to earn a point on the south coast.

They were denied by a solid defence as a string of early opportunities went begging in this Surrey/Hants Regional Two clash – then went behind.

Southampton then soon doubled their lead to leave Hawks up against it.

But the visitors were back in business shortly before the interval when Mark Collins found Martin Delaney outside the top of the 'D' and he manoeuvred the ball on to his reverse and shot well over the diving keeper.

Hawks continued to probe in the second half and were unlucky not to capitalise on some well-worked attacking play.

However, they were still aware of the pace of the opposition attack.

They found their equaliser from a penalty corner, the initial shot saved, only for Rich Corry to follow up to score.

Eion Haughton had a late chance to win the clash for his side but, released by

Nick Dowdeswell, he rounded the keeper but shot on to the outside of the near post.

A double header for Ashford Men's first team saw a glut of goals as they had mixed fortunes in two nine-goal thrillers.

In the South Premier Two, they gave away three early goals against Tulse Hill & Dulwich and were unable to fully recover.

Shujah Ur Rehman converted a penalty stroke before the break before Tulse Hill reasserted their dominance to take a huge 5-1 lead.

It looked like Ashford's goal difference would take a pounding until Ur Rehman delivered three successful short-corner goals, the game ending 5-4 to Tulse.

The following day saw Ashford progress in the league cup against Henley with Ur Rehman to the fore once again – this time Ashford on the right side of the same scoreline.

Andrew Whiting dominated in midfield and Andrew Barnes was superb in defence but Henley scored two quick goals.

Ashford were far from beaten though, Ryan Holland's direct running traumatising the Henley defence along with Piers du Boulay.

This hard work began tearing the Henley defence apart and two beautiful team goals followed, the first when Alex Betts tapped in after Holland had picked him out, the second from Ur Rehman after good link-up play from Whiting and du Boulay.

Ur Rehman made it 4-2 with a fine individual goal but they conceded twice to let the game slip to 4-4 – only for deadly Ur Rehman to crack in his eighth goal of the weekend for the winner.

Ashford Ladies 1s dominated their game away against Eastcote 3s to record a 6-1 triumph – Anna Prothero helping herself to a hat-trick.

The first came from a quick free hit taken by Nicky Benedict while the second came from a cross by Kelly Taylor to Maria Cavilla who scored with a slap shot.

Laura Quinn scored with a diving shot for 3-0, then a long corner from Molly Davis allowed Prothero to add the fourth.

Prothero's second from a short corner gave Ashford a hefty 5-0 advantage at half time and they had to settle for just one in the second half, Prothero weaving past several defenders before flicking into the bottom corner.

Eastcote grabbed a late goal but it couldn't spoil the party.

Ashford 2s hosted Old Merchant Taylor Duchesses (OMTD) and lost 4-2.

They handed a debut to youngster Caitlin Davis, while regular midfielder Louisa Jakubovic bravely stepped up to play in goal and injured winger Jenny Tippell played her first game of the season.

OMTD went 3-0 ahead before battling Ashford fought back and a move between Davis, Victoria Chudleigh and Gillian Clegg ended with the latter prodding in from close range.

OMTD added a fourth, although Lynne Morgan did have the satisfaction of adding a second for her team from a rebound.

Walton Xcel at a sedate pace

Walking Football

PLAYERS from all over Surrey proved age is just a number as they descended on the Xcel Leisure Complex in Walton-on-Thames for a countywide tournament.

As the name suggests, walking football is a slower-paced version of "The Beautiful Game" aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at

over-55s to support an active lifestyle and keep them in the sport.

It is non-contact and anyone running or jogging while the ball is in play is penalised.

More than 70 players formed teams representing each different walking football session that the Surrey FA run or support.

Sides also from Epsom, Sutton, Croydon, Guildford, Woking, Waddon, Caterham and even AFC Wimbledon enjoyed a round-robin

tournament, with Walton beating Croydon 4-2 in the final to avenge a defeat in July.

Croydon's Andy Cox explained: "I retired in 2012 but wanted to keep active – I never envisaged at 65 I'd start playing football again and it's brilliant.

"While the gym and swimming is good, I much prefer a competitive match."

Mark Blythe, session co-ordinator for Walton, added: "It's a lot of fun and

there's some great banter flying around.

"I have one player who hadn't kicked a ball in 30 years and is now back playing. It's the highlight of his week."

There is also the opportunity to play this fast-growing sport at Staines & Laleham Sports Club on Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm at £3 a session.

For more information visit www.surreyfa.com/players/walking-football.



Terry Habgood HI146856

Rich pickings: Rich Corry scored for Sunbury & Walton Hawks.