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Sports reports: Wingate and Finchley FC, **Ryman League Division One North**

By Daniel David

Wingate and Finchley FC1, Thamesmead Town FC 1, Saturday 22 August

It was Wingate and Finchley's first Saturday fixture at the Abrahams Stadium which ended in a draw, continuing their good start to the campaign, although both sides would say they deserved to win in an eventful game which saw one disallowed goal and a more than arguable refereeing decision.

Both sides started the game in an edgy fashion but soon enough chances were created. The away side looked more threatening than their opponents but, right on the 45th minute, the referee pointed to the spot after a mistimed tackle on Wingate forward Leon Nelson, who then coolly converted.

On the hour mark, the referee disallowed Thamesmead's Andy Constable's headed goal for being offside. Seventy five minutes in, the referee saw a Thamesmead defender handle the ball when trying to clear a cross, when in fact the ball hit him straight in the face. A dubious penalty decision given, Wingate captain Marvin Samuel stepped up to deliver a poor penalty, which was saved by Steve Northwood's trailing legs. Wingate & Finchley FC 3, VCD Athletic FC 0, **Saturday 5 September**

From the start of this

game, tackles were flying in, and inside four minutes Wingate's Jordan Fowler had to be replaced by Ola Williams after a nasty challenge. Leon Smith grabbed the first of his hattrick after making the most of a poor back pass, which he then rounded the keeper to finish in an empty net. Soon after, Smith doubled his side's lead with a smart lob over VCD's James Tedder after going clear on the right flank.

From this point on, the away side rarely had a say in the game, which looked to have been won inside 30 minutes when the Blues had a chance to go three up. A shot was spurned by Marc Weatherstone, however, and before long Smith completed the rout with a superb solo effort.

VCD couldn't get themselves back in the game and a desperate-looking attempt from defender Anthony Hogg was their last effort on goal. A man of the match performance from Blues' centre back Craig Ellis, who never looked shaken by VCD's frontmen, ensured the home side went away with a win and a clean sheet.



Ben and Mam have their own kitchen at last. Photo by John Lawrence

Family Thais

A new mother and son team have taken over the Thai kitchen at Maddens pub in the High Road. Mam Spencer and Ben Henham have always longed to run their own business and now they've got the chance.

Mam grew up in a small village outside Bangkok and has had a career in catering in London, working in some of the top Thai restaurants in Wardour Street and Carnaby Street.

Ben, a former Martin School and Fortismere pupil, is in the last year of his game design and multimedia studies at the University of Greenwich and has business experience running and serving in a bar.

After coming across the chance to open the Maben Thai kitchen at Maddens almost by accident, they have many plans for the business.

Ben said: "We were very close to taking a restaurant in High Barnet but I used to come into Maddens once a week with my dad and Kieron the manager knew my mum was a chef. When the previous team moved on, he asked if we would be interested. Having a business in East Finchley is what we really wanted."

Ben and Mam's mission is to help diners explore and enjoy Thai food, rather than feel intimidated by the ingredients or the choice. They want to serve central Londonquality food at common sense prices.

Maben is open at Maddens from 12pm-3pm and 6pm-10.30pm Monday to Fridays, and 12pm-10.30pm Saturday and Sundays.



By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Beware: Cliff!

Just when you thought it was safe to believe in the future of rock 'n' roll an ageing 1950s matinee idol and professional God botherer embarks on the kind of tour that gives senile degeneracy a bad name. Yes, the perma-tanned star of 1963's biggest film is back.

When rock was young, Cliff was a rocker and his 1958 single Move li was the first English rock record. He was a bit like Elvis without the burger addiction and, like Elvis, quickly moved from edgy rocker to housewife's favourite. It was all going well everywhere, except America which had enough sense to remain immune. And then came The Beatles

The Beatles changed everything. They wrote their own songs, they sounded different and, as Philip Larkin wrote, 'The permissive society began in 1963, between the Chatterley trial and the Beatles' first LP' Time to choose sex, drugs, the Summer of Love and Woodstock. Cliff chose God bothering, crap TV shows and the Eurovision Song Contest. Cool? Cliff wasn't cool; he was so uncool that he joined the Festival of Light, Mary Whitehouse and Co's attempt to drag everyone back behind the net curtains.

In 1975 he disowned his new single Honky Tonk Angel once he realised it was about a prostitute, not some heavenly apparition. When punk arrived in 1976 Cliff should have been first into the dustbin of history, but for some weird reason he wasn't. Instead he was repackaged as a rock star. And for 10 years it almost worked.

The new, leather-trousered, almost-cool Cliff managed some almostcool hits, even in America. I almost stopped laughing, but Cliff didn't let me down; he got the Christmas bug and churned out dross like *Mistletoe* and Wine and Saviour's Day.

While the rest of the world got Nirvana and grunge, Cliff got a knighthood and in 1996 made a major contribution to Wimbledon. If he hadn't burst into song to entertain the rain-sodden crowds they might never have put a roof on Centre Court. It was an act of humanity and the only way to stop him doing it again.

As a new millennium beckoned even radio stations woke up and at long last stopped playing his records. Not that he got the message, he still believes that he's the most radical rock star ever because he never did the sex, drugs and alcohol thing. Problem is, he never really did





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