

MATCH ACTION

Malik sets mountain to climb

In the continuing championship war of attrition at Chelmsford, Derbyshire started the third day 92 runs behind title favourites Essex who closed on 323 for five.

As one of the five remaining wickets is Pakistan batsman Salim Malik, still there with an unbeaten 138, Derbyshire look like facing an uphill battle by slow turning wicket.

Derbyshire's bonus points position was only four but whatever happens on the run-in they are now apparently ensured of finishing no lower than fifth.

Their high point yesterday was breaking up Essex's opening partnership between Graham Gooch and John Stephenson with only 80 on the board — no mean achievement.

From the outset, Ole Mortensen and Allan Warner produced initial new ball bowling that was accurate and restrictive and it was Mortensen who struck by having Stephenson lbw playing half cock for only 14.

England skipper Gooch looked menacing until becoming the prize scalp of Dominic Cork for his 50th wicket of the season.

Cork struck his blow with the second ball of his second over of the day, Gooch playing too late and giving a simple mid-wicket catch to John Morris.

Derbyshire were even happier at lunch. In the last over before the interval left-arm spinner Richard Sladdin deceived and bowled Paul Prichard reducing Essex to 116 for three and the contest at this point was wide open.

Sladdin proceeded to send down a marathon 39-over spell. Eleven of them were maidens and he picked up two more wickets although finally conceding more than 100 by the end of the day.

Malik, after a slowish start, became the Essex anchorman, sharing partnerships of 64 with Nasser Hussain (35) and 68 with Nick Knight (28).

Hussain holed out to skipper Kim Barnett in the covers and Knight was bowled around his legs attempting a sweep.

Malik went on to record his sixth century of the season in 13 fours and faced 251 deliveries in reaching three figures and was a model of concentration throughout.

The brunt of the Derbyshire attack was borne by Sladdin in tandem with Peter Bowler who conceded 56 runs without any success in 22 overs.



● Dominic Cork ... 50th wicket.

Scoreboard

Overnight: Derbyshire 1st ins 231 all out; Essex 1st ins 19-0.

ESSEX 1ST INNS (cont)

G Gooch c Morris b Cork	44
J Stephenson lbw b Mortensen	14
P Prichard b Sladdin	27
Salim Malik not out	138
N Hussain c Barnett b Sladdin	35
N Knight b Sladdin	28
M Garnham not out	16
Extras	21
Total	323
Fall: 1-53, 2-80, 3-116, 4-180, 5-248.	

Brackensfield make step up

With the Albion Masters Second Division Championship already in the hands of Hammerwich, BRACKENSFIELD secured the remaining promotion spot.

The did so with a four-wicket victory over ELFORD. After being put in Elford raced to 80 for two after 23 overs and looked set for a big score but Dave Newbold and Mark Wallis put the brakes on and reduced the visitors to 146 all out.

Brackensfield were left with the simple task of scoring just 71 runs to secure promotion and they easily reached for the loss of just one wicket.

Dave Woolley (26) and Gary Newbold (21) gave them the start they required and a solid 39 from Danny Foulke saw them to victory.

TRENTSIDE finished the

Burton Albion walked the thin line between success and failure at Butlin Road last night.

Only a 29th minute Gary Bradder penalty separated the Brewers and Beazer Premier Division leaders VS Rugby in a robust battle that left manager Brian Fidler seething afterwards.

Fidler was furious that Albion failed to make the most of an inspired spell of early pressure — and then handed VS the points with "an absolute gift of a goal."

The decisive moment stemmed from a wayward backpass by young defender Nathan Foster. The ball failed to reach Nick Goodwin and Mark Rosegreen stole in to pull it back into the middle where former Albion striker Robbie Jones was tripped by Ken Geelan, allowing Bradder to roll home his spot kick.

By then Albion could have been in front after boldly taking the game to their opponents in an early assault.

Spectacular

Geelan missed once chance when he sent a free header over the bar after Scott Machin had helped on an Alan Davies corner and the Brewers were even nearer in the 13th minute.

Dave Lycett, still seeking his first goal for the club, fastened onto Scott Machin's cross but his spectacular left-foot volley came back off the bar. There was a further escape for VS when Alan

By Rex Page
VS Rugby..... (1) 1
Burton Albion..... (0) 0

McLaren tantalisingly drove the rebound across the face of the goal.

But the Brewers were unable to sustain their effort and Rugby slowly, but surely won the midfield war of attrition, Jones forcing Goodwin to make a superb near post save to stop the home side doubling their interval lead.

Albion never got into their attacking stride in the second-half and not even the introduction of Chris Meyer for the injured Machin and Mick Curry for the ineffective Davies could turn the flow of the game back their way.

Rugby's grip became tighter the longer the game went on, but it was only when Albion abandoned orthodox defence to commit more players to attack that the home side seriously threatened again.

At least Goodwin had the satisfaction of keeping Albion old boy Jones off the scoresheet.

The Brewers keeper saved brilliantly when Rosegreen sent clear Jones, who was later guilty off the miss of the night when he steered a left-foot wide with the goal gaping at him.

Goodwin also excelled himself to deny the lively Gary Fitzpatrick after VS skipper Graham Reed's defensive cover.

Scorer: Bradder, 29 pen (Rugby).
VS Rugby: Martin, Niblett, McGinty, Halton, Coe, Reed, Shearer, Bradder.

Albion 2nd Division

season with an easy 143-run win over struggling SWADLINCOTE.

Martin Stakes and Ian Morgan added 96 for the first wicket as Trentside took command and further useful contributions from the lower order took the home side to a commanding 194 for seven.

After tea the Swadlincote batsmen struggled, particularly against Gordon Brake who finished with five for 23, and they were eventually skittled out for just 51.

A good all round batting display saw HILTON reach a match-winning 186 for six against RAWDON COLLIERY.

Sean Harrison top scored with 36 while Steve Ball turned in a good performance with the ball



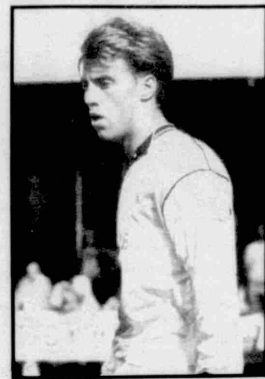
● Winning trio ... Trentside batsmen Martin Stakes (left) and Ian Morgan who shared an opening 94 partnership and bowler Gordon Brake who finished with five for 23 against Swadlincote.

returning four for 36.

Rawdon began their reply disastrously and at only eight for five wickets the end did not seem too far away but a mixture of flamboyance and hard hitting from Brian Woollett and Mac Faulkner saw them to respectability.

Adam Sellers and Paul Slaney shared eight wickets to ensure a comfortable win.

At NETHERSEAL ST PETERS, KING BROMLEY'S innings was held together by the



● Dave Lycett ... hit bar.

Rosegreen, Jones, Fitzpatrick; subs.: Bullions, Sutton.

Albion: ★GOODWIN 8, Foster 6, Gaffney 7, Redfern 6, Geelan 7, Simms 7, Davies 6, Hunt 6, Lycett 6, Machin 6, McLaren 6; subs.: Meyer (for Machin, 56); Curry (for Davies, 81).

Albion form rating: average.
Referee: M K Bullivant (Cambridge).
Attendance: 719. Bookings: Geelan, Redfern (Albion).

● Albion reserves went down 1-0 to Leicester United in their Influence Combination clash at Eton park.

The Brewers were made to pay dearly for a defensive error two minutes before half-time which allowed Houghton to steal in for the only goal of a game otherwise dominated by the Brewers.

RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP
Preliminary round, second leg
TOTTENHAM 1 S STOCKERAL 0
Mabbutt HT: 1-0 ATT: 28,072

BARCLAYS LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
ASTON VILLA..... 0 CRYSTAL P 1
Wright HT: 1-0 ATT: 20,740

LUTON..... 2 SHAMPTON 1
Gray, Harvey Le Tissier (pen) HT: 2-1 ATT: 8,055

MAN CITY..... 2 NOTTS F 1
Quinn, Hill Sheringham HT: 1-0 ATT: 29,146

QPR..... 0 WEST HAM 0
HT: 0-0 ATT: 16,616

DIVISION TWO
BRISTOL C 1 BRISTOL R 0
Allison HT: 0-0 ATT: 20,183

DERBY CO 0 BLACKBURN 2
Wilson, Spence HT: 0-1 ATT: 12,076

LEICESTER..... 2 GRIMSBY 0
Fitzpatrick HT: 1-0 ATT: 16,242

MILLWALL..... 1 BRIGHTON 2
Fako Byrne HT: 1-1 ATT: 9,266

NEWCASTLE..... 2 PLYMOUTH 2
Carr, Quinn Salman, Marshall HT: 0-1 ATT: 19,543

OXFORD..... 1 MIDDLESBRO 2
Nolan Slaves (2) HT: 0-0 ATT: 4,229

DIVISION THREE
EXETER..... 1 TORQUAY 0
Kelly HT: 0-0 ATT: 5,772

HULLDERFELD..... 2 CHESTER 0
Osuora, Barnett HT: 1-0 ATT: 5,321

STOKE..... 1 SHREWSBURY 0
Buggins HT: 0-0 ATT: 10,182

DIVISION FOUR
HEREFORD..... 2 GILLINGHAM 0
Heritage Harbott (pen) HT: 1-0 ATT: 2,544

LINCOLN..... 0 BARNETT 6
Bull (2), Murphy Wills HT: 0-2 ATT: 3,067

MAIDSTONE..... 1 CARDIFF 1
Cuggey (pen) Dale HT: 1-1 ATT: 1,019

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
WELLING..... 1 WYCOMBE 3
Abbott Guppy, West (2) HT: 0-1 ATT: 1,337

GM Vauxhall Conference:
Welling 1, Wycombe 3.

Bob Lord Trophy 1st and 2nd leg: Cheltenham 4, Kidderminster 2; Gateshead 3, Witton 0.

Beazer Homes Premier Division: Bashley 3, Dartford 0; Corby 3, Worcester 1; VS Rugby 1, Burton Albion 0; Wealdstone 3, Trobridge 1.

Influence Combination Premier Division: Alcester 1, Stratford 0; Blaxwich 4, Boldmere 0; Arnsage 4, Knowle 1. Reserve Division: Burton Albion 0, Leicester U 1.

Positions

ALBREW MALTSISTERS 2ND DIVISION

	P	W	T	L	A	B	T
Ham'wich	17	16	0	0	1	59	174
Brackensf'd	18	13	9	3	2	46	143
Elford	18	10	0	6	2	52	128
Dray/Han	17	9	0	6	2	41	110
Hilton	18	8	0	7	3	35	100
Trentside	18	6	0	10	2	46	94
K Bromley	18	6	1	9	2	30	78
Nethers' SP	18	6	1	10	1	31	76
Rawdon Col	18	3	0	13	2	31	58
Swadlincote	18	1	0	14	3	25	41
Not including Hammerwich							
Draycott and Hanbury							