

## Baker's girls ready for Spurs test

► **FOOTBALL HAMPSTEAD** Women FC caused one of the upsets of the season when they beat Haringey Borough in the FA London Senior Women's Cup.

Their reward is a tie against Tottenham Hotspur January 17. The winners will meet Arsenal, the nine-time consecutive Premiership champions and European Cup winners.

Up against opponents from four divisions higher and only two divisions below the women's Premier League, Hampstead won 2-1 in extra time.

The team had nine players out of 16 in the Team GB open squad at the 18th Maccabiah where women's football was hosted for the first time. Captain Ellie Bard and attacking midfielder Kate Freeman played key roles in the cup win along with Emma Wragg who dropped out of the Maccabiah squad.

Manager John Baker said: "I am so proud of the girls. There is such a tremendous team spirit. They are playing beautiful, fast and dynamic passing football, at a level well beyond our league ranking suggests possible. But this is exactly why they say that the cup brings such romance.

"It's a chance for the little team to prove themselves on the big stage, and that's exactly what we've done here today. Our Head Coach, Ian Gannon needs to take a lot of the credit, however. There are only a few women's clubs in the country that can boast an UEFA-A pro-licence coach, and we are lucky to have him here."

## Benitez woe

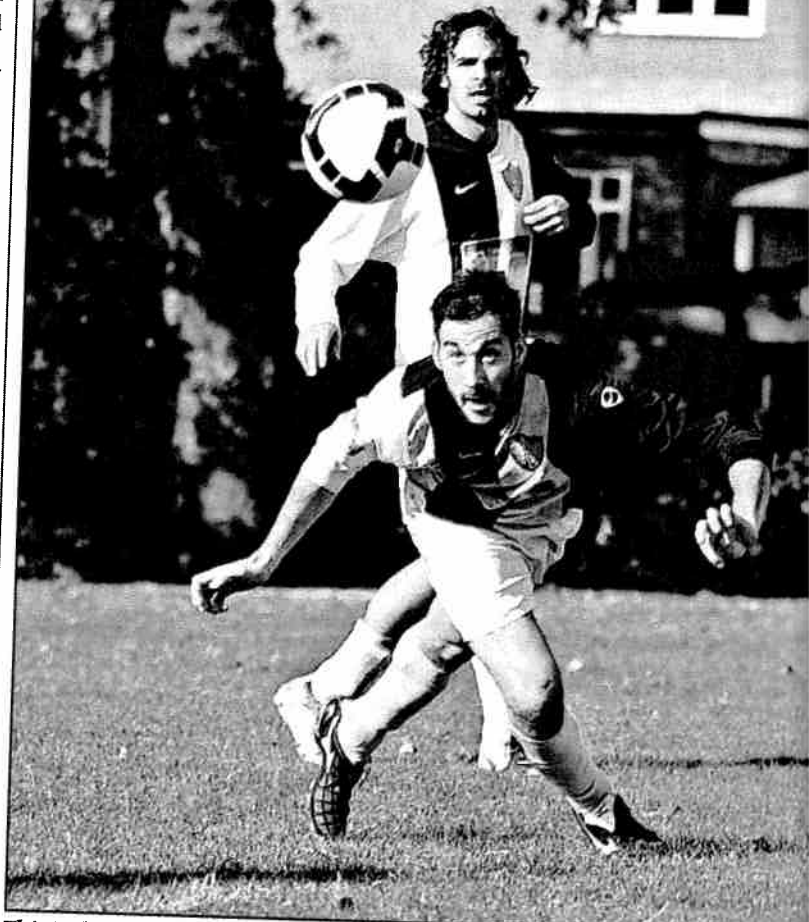
◀ **CONTINUED FROM BACK**

wickets, but fail when the going gets tough. And this time, the buck does stop with Benitez. As Graeme Souness, the former Liverpool manager pointed out, he has had five years to mould his team, so cannot continue hiding behind the skirts of a fractious board.

Also, it was his decision to replace the hugely influential Xabi Alonso with a player who arrived injured: Alberto Aquilani of AS Roma, £20m and yet to be seen. Losing Alonso was a blow, but he had already been alienated by Benitez's pursuit of Gareth Barry a year previously. Never forget that if Barry's deal had gone through Alonso would have been a Juventus player 12 months earlier. Benitez was certainly willing to sell.

This week brings Manchester United and, after defeat by Lyons, a good deal of whistling to keep spirits up. It is said that there is no bottom for...

# Harmen re-Bou



This is the moment Harmen hotshot Alex Bourne got ready to convert a cross

**BY JAMES MARTIN**

**SOUTHGATE HARMEN A  
REDBRIDGE JEWISH CARE B**

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► **SOUTHGATE HARMEN** manager Dan Uzan believes his team showed championship quality after they twice came from behind to earn a 3-3 draw against Division One promotion rivals Redbridge Jewish Care B.

Having seen his newly-promoted team shoot to the top of the table just months after winning the Division

Two title, Uzan was delighted with his team's spirit and quality in a match they recovered a 0-2 and 1-3 deficit.

"We showed good character to come back from conceding," said Uzan. "We've more than matched a good side so I think we can aim to win the league."

Harmen had the better of the opening exchanges with striker Ben Murrell, hitting the bar with a crashing drive from 25 yards.

However, it was Kanolik who opened the scoring, after receiving a pass from

## LIONS LATE SHOW

► A late strike from Daniel Stanton lifted London Lions back to second

## SEVEN HEAVEN

► Manchester Maccabi 1st eased into the third round of the Maccabi