

32/83

Enfield heading for the title

By Paul Newman

Enfield, who at one stage appeared to have let their chance of winning the Alliance Premier League slip away, are now clear favourites to take the title and go forward as candidates for election to the Football League.

Thanks to victory on Tuesday night away at one of their two championship rivals, Wealdstone, Enfield are now two points clear of their closest challengers, Maidstone United, who have played one match more. Wealdstone are six points behind Enfield with a game in hand.

All three clubs face difficult end-of-season programmes. Four of Enfield's six matches are away from home, Wealdstone's three remaining away games are against sides who have each lost only once at home this season, and Maidstone United entertain the teams in fourth, fifth and sixth positions in their last three home matches. The remaining fixtures are:

ENFIELD: Home: Weymouth, Barrow. Away: Bath, Worcester, Telford, Runcorn.

MAIDSTONE: Home: Runcorn, Weymouth, Scarborough. Away: Bangor, Northwich.

WEALDSTONE: Home: Telford, Scarborough, Kettering, Altrincham. Away: Weymouth, Boston, Northwich.

Less than a month ago Enfield were five points behind Maidstone, who have found scoring goals a problem in recent months despite the fact that John Bartley has hit 32 in league and league cup games this season and is the leading scorer in the Alliance. The league had been led all season by either Enfield or Maidstone until Wealdstone briefly held the top position over Easter after winning at Maidstone.

The Alliance relegation issues are much more clear-cut, with Trowbridge Town, Barrow and Stafford Rangers all looking certain to drop out. The bottom three clubs will be replaced by one from each of the three "feeder" leagues, the Northern Premier, Southern and Isthmian, provided they satisfy Alliance ground grading requirements.

Gateshead, who have gone from

strength to strength since taking over at the top of the Northern Premier League in January, are now so well clear that they could secure the championship tomorrow. Gateshead and Macclesfield Town, who are currently second in the table, have applied to be graded.

From the Southern League, both Kidderminster Harriers and A. P. Leamington have asked to be graded. Kidderminster had led the league since December until they were overtaken on Tuesday night by A. P. Leamington, who were relegated from the Alliance at the end of last season.

The only Isthmian League club intending to apply for grading are Hayes. Wycombe Wanderers, who have led the league since October and are currently the strongest Isthmian club both on and off the field, would only be interested in joining a regionalized Alliance League. Neither Leytonstone/Ilford

nor Harrow Borough, who like Hayes could both overhaul Wycombe if they took full advantage of their games in hand, are currently interested in joining the Alliance.

● The Southern League yesterday elected eight new members. They are Shepshed Charterhouse (Northern Counties East League), V S Rugby, Coventry Sporting, Bridgnorth Town (West Midlands), Moor Green (Midlands Combination), Tamworth (Northern Premier), Chatham Town (Kent) and Rushden Town (United Counties).

● John Rains, the captain of Sutton United, is tomorrow due to make his 500th appearance for the Isthmian League club against Bishop's Stortford. Rains, aged 29, joined Sutton from Bromley in November 1974.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	36	23	6	7	83	38	75
Maidstone U	37	22	7	8	69	30	73
Wealdstone	35	20	9	6	67	31	69
Runcorn	35	19	7	9	59	41	64
Weymouth	33	17	9	7	52	33	60
Scarborough	37	17	8	12	66	47	59
Boston United	34	16	9	9	61	49	57
Telford United	33	15	10	8	56	37	55
Nuneaton B	39	14	12	13	53	55	54
Bath City	35	15	7	13	40	45	52
Northwich V	35	14	9	12	54	53	51
Barnet	37	16	3	18	52	67	51
Altrincham	36	13	8	15	52	48	47
Bangor City	36	11	11	14	59	69	44
Frickley A	38	10	11	17	57	72	41
Dagenham	32	9	11	12	51	54	38
Worcester City	35	10	8	17	49	73	38
Yeovil Town	37	11	5	21	58	84	38
Kettering Town	37	10	7	20	60	84	37
Trowbridge	36	8	6	22	43	79	30
Barrow	33	5	10	18	33	62	25
Stafford R	38	4	13	21	39	70	25

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gateshead	36	27	4	5	98	38	85
Chorley	38	22	10	6	69	40	78
Macclesfield	39	23	7	9	68	47	76
Mossley	37	22	7	9	68	47	73
Chorley	37	21	10	6	66	40	73
Burton Albion	37	20	8	9	71	48	68

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe W	40	25	6	9	74	45	81
Hayes	37	22	7	8	57	33	73
L'stone/Ilford	36	21	7	8	59	31	70
Slough Town	38	17	12	9	69	32	63
Harrow Borough	33	19	6	8	70	46	63
Dulwich Hamlet	39	17	12	10	57	51	63
Croydon	39	17	8	14	64	51	59
Sutton United	36	16	8	12	65	63	56
Tooting & M	35	16	8	11	56	47	56
Hendon	39	17	4	18	66	61	55
B Stortford	36	15	8	13	54	48	53
Barking	37	14	10	13	43	47	52
Billerica T	35	14	9	12	47	42	51
Carshalton A	37	14	6	17	51	53	48
Staines Town	40	12	11	17	51	53	48
Bognor Regis T	33	13	6	14	35	40	45
Workington T	36	12	8	16	31	42	44
Walthamstow A	40	11	11	18	44	61	44
Hitchin Town	39	11	7	21	46	72	40
Bromley Town	35	9	11	15	38	43	38
Woking	38	5	5	28	27	74	20
Leatherhead	38	4	4	30	33	110	10

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier division leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AP Leamington	31	19	4	8	62	43	61
Kidderminster	32	18	6	8	56	35	60
Welling United	32	18	4	10	57	35	58
Gosport Borgh	34	13	11	10	42	39	50
Chelmsford C	32	13	9	10	49	36	48
Dorchester	31	12	11	8	43	40	47