

News briefly

Sarries battle to Ospreys victory

SARACENS boosted their hopes of reaching the Heineken Cup quarter-finals after a gripping 31-26 win over the Ospreys at Wembley. Rhys Gill scored an early try before Ashley Beck replied with a solo effort. Ernst Joubert added the hosts' second try and Chris Wyles crossed the line to extend their lead. Beck scored again but Sarries held on to take the upper hand going into the return match tomorrow night in Swansea.

Festive offer for Harrow derby

ALL Under-16s will be given free entry to Wealdstone's derby against Harrow Borough on Boxing Day which kicks off at 3pm. A big turnout is expected for the festive clash and the Stones will open the clubhouse throughout the day.

Wealdstone win keeps them top

WEALDSTONE LADIES remain top of the table after a 6-2 home win over Bedwell Rangers. Rosie Watts struck twice to fire the Stones into an early lead. Nicola Dixon added to the score as they led 3-1 at half-time. Bedwell scored again before efforts from Dixon, Catherine Fahy and Stevie Wickes.

Stones boss eyes FA Trophy upset

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett believes their FA Trophy draw provides them with a great opportunity to pull off a giant-killing act.

The Stones thrashed Uxbridge 5-0 on Saturday and their reward is a home tie against Conference side Barrow on Saturday, January 14.

Bartlett said: "It is a home draw and that was our number one target. We also wanted a big club and we've got that as well so it's a great draw for us."

"It is a great opportunity for a giant-killing. We faced that against Uxbridge and came through it. Now we have the chance to pull one off."

Richard Jolly continued his rich vein of form with a hat-trick while Watford loanee Britt Assombalonga added to his goal tally with a brace.

Bartlett said: "We created a lot of opportunities; scoring five and hitting the woodwork twice."

"Richard scored a hat-trick and he could easily have doubled his tally. It was a local derby and they were always going to be fired up for it."

"I think the whole group have really learnt from their mistakes early on in the season."

Wealdstone have been strengthened by the arrival of Assombalonga and Connor Smith from the Hornets and Bartlett feels they have added

energy to his team.

He said: "I think they have come in at a good time but it's been on the cards for a while. They have given us a bit of freshness and energy."

"I'm not surprised by Britt's goals because I knew what we were bringing in. The great thing about both of them is they're flexible and can play in different positions."

The Stones have now won four matches in a row and will be expected to continue this run when they travel to lowly Leatherhead on Saturday before hosting managerless Tooting and Mitcham United on Monday.

Bartlett has targeted three wins from their four league games before the end of the year which will keep them on the coat tails of the Ryman Premier front runners.

Bartlett added: "December is a massive month for us. If we could go into the new year still in two cup competitions and in a decent league position then that's not a bad way to start 2012."

"We have put in solid foundations for the new year but we have four important games coming up and if we can pick up nine points that will be very pleasing."

"I don't look at league positions. I think Leatherhead are decent and they proved that by beating Kingstonian last week. Their league position belies their ability."

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Britt Assombalonga celebrates scoring in the Stones' win over Uxbridge.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Five-star Reds back on track

HARROW BOROUGH ended their goal drought by crushing Lewisham Borough 5-0 in the London Senior Cup fifth round.

New striker Danny Buckle stole the plaudits with a hat-trick during the one-sided win.

Buckle had an early effort ruled out for offside but got his rewards after just six minutes with a sharp finish.

Buckle chested the ball down five minutes later and fired home the hosts' second goal.

Boro killed off the tie before the break when Jon-Jo Bates picked up the ball and rounded the goalkeeper for a simple finish.

The Reds scored their fourth goal straight after the restart when Rob Wolleaston set up Aryantaj Tajbakhsh. His first shot was blocked but he followed up to fire past visiting goalkeeper Danny Baldwinson.

Buckle sealed his hat-trick on the hour-mark when he finished neatly at the far post.

Dave Anderson's side will be looking to take this confidence into their Ryman League match on Saturday when they entertain second-placed Lowestoft Town.

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