

News briefly

Tigers held in first game

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS drew 0-0 at Biggleswade United in their first match of the South Midlands Premier Division season. Renars Zarchenko went closest for the visitors but his effort was straight at goalkeeper Darren Ayres. At the other end, Siki Kambila also made several sharp saves in the Tigers' goal.

Wood set for Forest test

NORTHWOOD FC get the Ryman One North season underway on Saturday with a trip to Waltham Forest. Wood wrapped up their final preparations by comfortably beating Burnham 3-0 on Saturday. Terry Davies grabbed a brace for Wood and Sean Sonner wrapped up the victory.

Success for St Mary's

HARROW ST MARY'S colts section have enjoyed a successful outdoor league season. The Under-10s, 11s, 15s and 17s all finished top of their respective first divisions in the Middlesex Colts North Area. They are all through to the County knock-out cup and the Under-13s have already advanced to a quarter-final tie with Ealing.

News immediately:
harrowtimes.co.uk

Stones set for historic home game

by SIMON MAIL
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WEALDSTONE will play their first ever Ryman Premier Division match at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday when they host Tonbridge Angels.

The Stones have been without a home for nearly two decades but they can now look forward to a stable future at Ruislip after their recent move. Grosvenor Vale has been granted the required grading by the Ryman League after substantial work over the summer.

Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett said: "It's a massive moment for the club. We haven't had a home for 19 years and it's already made an enormous difference to our pre-season.

"I can't guarantee a performance on the park but we can guarantee we have a home and that's so important. It would be nice to see a crowd of 500 on Saturday and maybe we could get that regularly this season."

Bartlett is expecting to face one of the favourites for promotion in Tonbridge Angels on Saturday.

He said: "They finished last season really well and a lot of people expect them to be up there. It will be a real test for us.

"We've only won two of our nine games in pre-season so haven't set the world on fire. But it's all about being ready for the opening game. We played well against Watford and Hampton & Richmond Borough but the last two have been a bit disappointing."

He admitted last week he feels his squad is as strong as it has ever been in his 13 years at the club.

The club finished in mid-table last season despite facing a relegation battle. Bartlett wants his side to surpass their efforts of last season and finish higher up the table.

Bartlett added: "For 12 of the last 13 years we have achieved higher finishes. And I expect us to do that this year. I will be delighted if we can finish in the top half of the league."

The Stones have signed up 21 players for this season, including goalkeeper Sean Thomas and left-midfielder Gary Burrell, but have been hit by a number of injuries already. Ben Alexander and Stephen Hughes are set to miss the opener with strained hamstrings and former Uxbridge defender Mark Boyce needs an ankle operation. New midfielder David Hicks, who has impressed in pre-season, will have to wait for his competitive debut as he is suspended.



Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett says their new home has already had a massive impact on the club.

Picture: HOLLY CANT.

Howell ready for Dover test

HARROW BOROUGHS manager David Howell hopes to add to his squad before their Ryman Premier Division opener at Dover on Saturday.

Boro only have 14 players signed up for the season, including two goalkeepers, and Howell is eager to bolster his threadbare squad before the weekend.

He said: "We have a very small squad. I'm certainly looking to add one or two players before the weekend."

Howell expects a stern test at newly promoted Dover and feels Andy Hesselthaler's side will have a successful campaign.

He said: "They have very good resources and they are one of the favourites this season."

New striker Jerome Hall and Jonathan Constant were on target in the 3-2 defeat at Cheshunt at the weekend as Howell played teenage trialist Simon Dahl. The left-back was recommended by DJ Spooner and Howell has a void to fill after Daniel Braithwaite decided to rejoin Ashford Town.

Howell said: "It was a big disappointment with Daniel because I was hoping to fill that position."

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