

News briefly

**Wood move up to ninth spot**

NORTHWOOD climbed to ninth in Ryman One North when they beat Brentwood Town 3-2. Wood went 3-0 up thanks to a double from former England Schoolboy international Sean Sonner and an own goal and, despite conceding two late goals, held on for the win. They now welcome Ilford on Saturday.

**Borough pick up solitary point**

HARROW BOROUGH could only muster one point from a possible six in the Ryman Premier this week. Borough could not hang on to Dwayne Clarke's goal in the opening minute against Tonbridge Angels on Tuesday, and also slipped to a 1-0 defeat against Ashford Town on Saturday. They welcome Horsham at the weekend.

**Last gasp effort clinches win**

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGER'S goal seven minutes into injury time earned them a 3-2 win over Cockfosters. Renars Zarchenko had put Tigers in the lead after three minutes but they were losing 2-1 as they entered added time. But Edson Cata and Elton Almeida both scored late on to lift their side up to fourth in Spartan South Midlands Premier. They face Welwyn Garden City on Saturday.

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# Skipper Smith to end 15-year career

BY FRANK SMITH

MIDDLESEX'S captain Ed Smith has left the club after he announced his retirement from first class cricket.

The right-handed batsman has been at Lords since 2005 and helped lead his side to their first trophy in 15 years when they lifted the Twenty20 Cup in the summer.

He missed the final though after he broke his ankle last season and hasn't played since.

The 31-year-old, who played for England three times, has written three books and the Cambridge University graduate will now become a full-time writer.

The Arsenal fan said "It has been a real honour to captain Middlesex. I have been very lucky to play first class cricket for eight years at Kent and four years at Middlesex.

"I'd like to thank all the players, coaches and supporters who have helped me enjoy the game I love. I wish Shaun Udal and the team every success in the future."

Smith hit 34 hundreds as he scored 12,789 runs in his 191 first-class matches, averaging 41.79.

Middlesex chairman Ian Lovett believes Smith has made a huge contribution during his time at the club, both as a batsman and a captain.

He said: "Ed has always shown exceptionally high levels of energy, commitment and dedication to everything he does, and having taken over the captaincy when we were at a particularly low ebb on the field, he played a major role helping us achieve markedly improved results.

"This culminated in us winning our first trophy for fifteen years in this year's Twen-



Ed Smith joined Middlesex in 2005.

Picture ACTION IMAGES

ty20 competition.

"He is a man with a wide range of talents and I am sure he will make a great success of his future career."

Middlesex fly out to India today (Thursday) without Smith for the inaugural Twenty20 Champions League.

They booked their place in the competition with their Twenty20 cup win and face Victoria Bushrangers in their first game on

Wednesday, as they try and land the \$3million prize.

Radlett all-rounder Gareth Berg is in the squad after he missed out on the Stanford Super Series last month.

The 27-year-old said: "I've never been to India before so it's a great opportunity.

"The money can be a massive distraction but after missing out on the trip to Antigua I'm just happy to be involved."

## Winning run comes to an end

TEN-MAN Wealdstone were just beaten 2-1 by league-leaders Dover Athletic to end their five-match winning run in the league.

The Stones took the lead in the first half but went behind when skipper James Gray was sent off and Dover scored from the spot.

Athletic lead the Ryman Premier by eight points and have two games in hand and Wealdstone struggled against a side which included names such as Andy Hesselthaler and Giuliano Grazioli.

The home side went in front on 11 minutes when Ryan Ashe fired in a free kick from the edge of the box and it deflected in off the unfortunate John Keister for an own goal.

But Dover got back into the game and started to show their class and when the Stones' defence gave Keister too much room, he made up for his own goal by shooting past Sean Thomas for the equaliser.

Wealdstone were starting to defend a lot deeper but Ashe continued to impress and the home side could have gone in front again through 17-year-old Marvin Sordelli, but the Watford loanee missed a sitter.

And they were to rue the miss when Gray pulled down Grazioli in the box and was given a straight red card, leaving Alan Pouton to convert the penalty for the win.

Wealdstone will be hoping to get back to winning ways on Saturday when they travel to 16th-placed Hastings United.

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