

News briefly

**Boro edge to slender win**

HARROW BOROUGH defeated Met Police 1-0 in the London Senior Cup on Tuesday night. Kai Williams' goal sent them into the quarter-finals of the competition. Boro could only manage a 2-2 draw at Ryman Premier bottom club Heybridge Swifts on Saturday. In-form forward Robin Shroot and Gary Noel netted for Boro. They play Hastings United at Earlsmead on Saturday.

**Pinner back in promotion hunt**

PINNER AND GRAMMARIANS RFC are back in the promotion hunt after a 24-3 win over Sudbury and London Springboks. Tries by Reza Sibilant, Warren Wood and Bernie Richter pushed them into second place. They face league leaders Hatfield this weekend.

**Strauss' heroics not enough**

ANDREW STRAUSS could not help England win this week despite becoming the first Englishman to hit two centuries in both innings of a Test match in India. The Middlesex batsman was in superb form with knocks of 123 and 108. But England managed to fritter away a firm grip on the match as India won by six wickets. The second Test gets underway in Mohali tomorrow.

News immediately:  
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## Barker dazzles in title defence



Darren Barker is hoping to move on to a European title challenge next year after completing a comfortable win over Jason McKay on Saturday. Picture: ACTION IMAGES

by SIMON MAIL  
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DARREN BARKER confirmed his reputation as one of the country's most promising boxers after brushing aside the challenge of Jason McKay on Saturday night.

The 26-year-old, originally from Harrow, retained his Commonwealth middleweight title in Brentwood after his opponent was pulled out by his corner at

the end of round six. 'Dazzling' Darren dominated the fight and had McKay reeling with two right-handed punches in the third round. But it was only a matter of time and a strong sixth round by Barker proved too much for the 21-year-old.

The champion said: "At the end of round three I knew it would only take a couple more.

"It is another win and the end of a good year."

Barker, who is undefeated in 19 fights, has set his sights on a European and British title shot next year.

And promoter Mick Hennessy is convinced he can follow in the footsteps of his friend and newly crowned WBC super-middleweight champion Carl Froch.

Hennessy said: "He has got the potential to be the best middleweight in the world. We'll be looking for him to be European Champion next year."

## Stones progress in cup

WEALDSTONE cruised into the third round of the Middlesex Senior Cup on Tuesday night after beating Wembley 3-0.

The visitors are languishing fourth from bottom in the Combined Counties Premier League and the Stones had few problems in securing the victory.

Gordon Bartlett's side dominated the contest and it was miraculous they did not win by a record margin.

Wealdstone took the lead when striker Greg Ngoyi smashed an effort past goalkeeper Barclay Lawrencin.

The scoreline was doubled after 14 minutes when Ryan Ashe lashed in their second goal.

It should have been 3-0 shortly afterwards when Ben Clarke was brought down in the area but Ashe's disappointing penalty was easily palmed away by the goalkeeper.

The Stones continued to pile on the pressure after the restart and it was no surprise when Ngoyi added his second of the night.

The win booked a game in the next round at home to holders Hampton and Richmond Borough.

Wealdstone's home match with Ashford Town was postponed at the weekend due to a waterlogged pitch.

The Stones are back in Ryman Premier action this Saturday when they travel to Sutton United. Bartlett's side will have fond memories from the clash at Grosvenor Vale back in September when they recorded their first win of the campaign after an emphatic 4-0 victory over Sutton.

Graeme Montgomery is likely to feature for the Stones as the 20-year-old's move to Dagenham and Redbridge will not go through until next month.

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