

News briefly

Honours even for Tigers

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS earned a 2-2 draw at Tring Athletic in the South Midlands Premier Division on Saturday. The hosts took the lead inside three minutes through Danny Gray. But Franclin Manuel bundled in the equaliser for Kingsbury. Andy Mullins headed Tring back in front but, despite losing a man through Tarik Ellekhilfi's sending off, Edson Cata's chip rescued a point.

Palmer treble earns points

STAFORDE PALMER's hat-trick helped Northwood won 4-1 at Hillingdon Borough in Ryman One North on Saturday. The 20-year-old, signed on-loan from Hayes and Yeading United, enjoyed a memorable debut for Wood. John Christian was also on target for the victors.

Combined side lose festive tie

PINNER AND GRAMMARIANS RFC held their annual Boxing Day clash at Hatch End last week. Players from Ruislip, Harrow and West London joined forces with the Pinner side to form a team for the match. In a tight encounter, refereed by club president Dave Hiles, Ruislip edged to a 27-24 victory over the combined XV.

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Stones sink Boro after six-goal salvo in derby

by SIMON MAIL
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WEALDSTONE took the derby day honours after thrashing Harrow Borough 6-0 on Saturday.

The Stones marked their first game against Boro at Grosvenor Vale with their biggest win of the season. The emphatic result puts Wealdstone up to eighth in the Ryman Premier table and only five points off a play-off spot.

But for Boro, it was a miserable afternoon with manager David Howell having to do without striker Robin Shroot. The highly rated Northern Ireland Under-21 player is on the verge of joining Championship front runners Birmingham City.

Stones manager Gordon Bartlett took a gamble by leaving out forward Greg Ngoyi in favour of putting centre-back James Gray in attack. And the skipper repaid Bartlett's faith in him by netting twice during the rout.

The crowd of 780 had to wait just over 15 minutes for the opening goal. It took a stunning strike from Ryan Ashe to break the deadlock as he lashed a 25-yard effort past Andray Baptiste.

Wealdstone doubled their lead within five minutes as Kieron Forbes produced an opening for Gray to slot in the second. The Stones kept up the pressure and they were rewarded with the third goal as Gray took advantage of a defensive mix-up to net his brace. Boro's woes continued after the restart as Danny Leech rose to head into his own net from Lee Chappell's long throw.

Chappell then showed his ability with the ball at his feet as he smashed in a superb strike from an angle to add the fifth after 56 minutes. The Stones rounded off the win with another fine finish from Ashe 25 minutes from time.

Bartlett said: "It was the supporters' day and we are delighted to beat anyone 6-0. It was a reasonable crowd and I would like to think that a lot of the home fans will want to come back. And we need them, not only to survive, but to progress as a club.



Wealdstone ended the year on a high after their emphatic win over rivals Harrow Borough. Picture: HOLLY CANT

"There was no way I expected a result like that and it is very pleasing. I thought some of our finishing was excellent and in general, our work rate was superior to theirs."

Wealdstone beat Boro 5-1 one year ago but subsequently went on a dreadful run before escaping relegation late in the season. The manager hopes his side have learnt from the experience and wants them to make sure they build on their recent good form, with a win at Boreham Wood on Saturday afternoon.

Bartlett said: "The sooner we can get to our target of the top half of the table then we can start to think about the possibility of the play-offs."

"We have lost ten games already and if we did that in the second half of the season then we would not have a

chance. I think it's going to be very difficult to get in the play-offs but not beyond us.

"We beat Boro 5-1 last year and then went on a real slump. The good thing is we have experienced that and it's very important that we build on that and don't rest on our laurels."

Howell said: "My team were well and truly beaten. It obviously hurts to lose in this manner especially in a local derby. Although there were a couple of well taken goals by the Wealdstone team, including two exceptional long range strikes, my team contributed massively for all six goals."

It was only Boro's second defeat in the league since October but they will have to improve for their match at home to second placed Staines Town on Saturday.

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