

News briefly

Wood progress in competition

NORTHWOOD moved into the last 16 of the Ryman League Cup after a comfortable 2-0 win over Fleet Town on Tuesday night at Chestnut Avenue. Skipper Mark Burgess fired the hosts in front before substitute Anthony Page capped his return from injury by netting the second goal. It was their fifth consecutive victory as they prepare for their Ryman One North home game with Wingate and Finchley on Saturday.

Tigers tamed by visitors

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS were dumped out of the South Midlands Premier Division Cup on Tuesday night after a 2-1 home defeat to St Margaretsbury. Tarik Ellekhlifi netted for the home side but could not prevent them losing. The Tigers visit Leverstock Green in the league this weekend.

Strauss takes full captaincy

MIDDLESEX batsman Andrew Strauss will captain England on the upcoming West Indies tour. The 31-year-old has been given the role of leading the one-day and Twenty20 sides in addition to the Test team. Strauss took over after last week's debacle which saw former skipper Kevin Pieter-son resign and Peter Moores, the head coach, sacked.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

Comeback earns Boro late victory

by SIMON MAIL
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TWO goals in the last ten minutes helped Harrow Borough secure a 2-1 win at Godalming in the Ryman League Cup on Tuesday night.

Boro looked in trouble after conceding a goal in the 81st minute when Adam Mahdi's cross was fumbled into the net by goalkeeper Andray Baptise, after pressure from muscular striker Graeme Purdy.

But this sparked the visitors into life and two substitutes played a major role in their fightback. Gary Noel had only just come on for Boro but he made an immediate impact by pulling the ball back for Dewayne Clarke to head in the equaliser.

The game appeared to be heading for extra-time when Boro struck to steal a late winner. Miles Jones was another second-half replacement for David Howell's side and he repaid his manager's faith in him by cutting the ball back for Jonathan Constant to fire in the decisive goal.

The match was their first game of the New Year after the recent postponements due to freezing weather. Howell will have been delighted with his team's response because their last outing at the end of December was a humiliating 6-0 defeat at the hands of rivals Wealdstone.

Boro return to Earlsmead on Saturday when they take on Essex-based outfit Billericay Town in the Ryman Premier League. Howell's side are desperate for points in the league as they attempt to climb away from the relegation trapdoor. They are currently in 18th position only one place and point above the drop zone.

■ Robin Shroot played the whole match in Birmingham's 2-0 home defeat to Wolves in the FA Cup third round on Tuesday night. The talented Northern Ireland Under-21 international made his debut for the Blues after leaving Boro earlier this month. He came close to marking his first appearance with a goal but goalkeeper Wayne Hennessy pulled off a save.

Howell said: "When he told me he was starting I was really pleased for him. All the lads are happy as well because they have played their part in helping Robin achieve what he wanted to."

"Alex McLeish [Birmingham manager] said he was very impressed with his performance as a 20-year-old who has just moved up from non-league football. He said that Robin handled the occasion very well. Robin said he should have scored and that would have been the icing on the cake for him."



Harrow Borough manager David Howell guided his side to a win at Godalming in their first match played this year.
Picture: PIPPA DOUGLAS

Stones in cup defeat

WEALDSTONE crashed out of the Ryman League Cup on Tuesday night after losing 2-1 at Staines after extra-time.

The Stones pushed the Ryman Premier promotion chasers all the way before falling to a narrow defeat after 120 minutes.

Staines led at half-time after they converted a penalty in an entertaining contest.

But Wealdstone hauled themselves level four minutes after the restart when Greg Ngoyi netted a well-taken equaliser.

Ngoyi had an excellent chance to book their place in the next round but he sent his header wide of the target.

The game went into extra-time and the home side grabbed the decisive goal inside the first minute.

Gordon Bartlett's side had almost 30 minutes to find a second goal but they could not get the breakthrough as their interest in the competition ended for another season.

Wealdstone face a trip to strugglers Ramsgate in the league this weekend as they hope to consolidate their position in the top ten of the division.

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