

News briefly

**Wood punished at death**

NORTHWOOD were stunned by a 98th minute equaliser as they were held to a 1-1 draw at league leaders Aveley in Ryman One North on Monday. Ryan Tackley created the opener for Wood when his free-kick was converted by Brad Hewitt. But the visitors were rocked by a last-gasp goal from Sean Thomas in the promotion clash.

**Tigers earn home point**

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS drew 2-2 at home to Oxhey Jets in the South Midlands Premier Division on Saturday. Paul Turner headed the away side in front before Steve Brown fired past his own goalkeeper for the equaliser. Paul Turner restored the lead for Oxhey but Marco Tagbajumi rescued a point for the Tigers.

**Strauss targets elusive win**

ANDREW STRAUSS leads England into the fourth Test in the West Indies today as they look to level the series. The visitors trail 1-0 after they failed to put away the home side last week. The Middlesex batsman scored 169 in England's first innings but they could only draw.

**News immediately:**  
[harrowtimes.co.uk](http://harrowtimes.co.uk)

## Constant agrees to stay with Borough

by SIMON MAIL  
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HARROW BOROUGH's hopes of avoiding the drop have been given a lift after striker Jonathan Constant committed his immediate future to the club.

The 20-year-old forward told manager David Howell earlier this month he wanted to quit the club. But the talented forward has changed his mind and will now help keep Boro in the Ryman Premiership after deciding to put plans to leave Earlsmead on hold until at least the summer.

Howell said: "It's a definite boost because he is our leading goalscorer. It would have been a big blow if he had left but now that he's staying it is a boost for us."

"He had a change of heart. I think he was badly advised initially. I didn't have a problem with him leaving but it was the timing of it. You need to put in work to get the move and I didn't feel he has been consistent enough."

"But now he has said he will stay until the end of the season and he just needs to relax and enjoy his football."

Meanwhile, Boro booked their place in the last-four of the Ryman League Cup after beating Horsham at home 4-1 on Tuesday night.

The strugglers were drawing 1-1 in the second half before they managed to put three goals past the visitors and extend their cup run. Gary Noel impressed with a brace and Miles Jones and Dewayne Clarke were also on target in the victory.

Howell said: "It was nice to reach the semi-finals and to be able to play without the pressure of getting three points. But



**Change of heart: Harrow Borough striker Jonathan Constant has decided to stay with the club until at least the end of the season.**

Picture: PIPPA DOUGLAS

we're not thinking about winning the competition at the moment. We're just looking to get into the final."

It was a welcome response after a disappointing 2-1 defeat at home to AFC Hornchurch at the weekend. Boro were caught cold after a poor start as they conceded two goals inside the opening 12 minutes. Clarke gave them hope with a 35th minute goal but they could not salvage the equaliser.

The win has given Howell a number of options ahead of the trip to Sutton on Saturday and he admits he hasn't decided on his starting team.

"It's a good position to be in. You know what you will get with Sutton. They're a big, direct side and before the adverse weather they were the form side in the division. We will have to be strong defensively and make sure we stand up to them."

## Bartlett focused on target

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett insists his side need to concentrate on securing safety by winning four more games.

The Stones have hit a rocky patch after losing their last three Ryman Premier games and Bartlett wants his side to secure their status in the division quickly.

Bartlett said: "My philosophy has not changed. Our target is 50 points and the sooner we get to that the quicker we can set a new target."

"The focus has never changed and we are still not safe from relegation or out of contention for the play-offs. We've still got 39 points to play for which is an awful lot."

The Stones squandered a great opportunity to win at Carshalton on Saturday but Ryan Ashe missed a first-half penalty when they were already 2-1 up. The home side recovered to steal the points and Bartlett was adamant the miss was the turning point.

"It was a massive point in the game and if we had got that it would have changed it. But that gave them a lift and they probably felt a bit fortunate to still be in the match whereas we felt a bit hard done by."

Wealdstone led through an Ashe penalty and an own goal before Carshalton's comeback.

Bartlett added: "We conceded three poor goals and we lost the match rather than them winning it. Two players I consider our best performers this season were at fault for the goals. Sean Thomas made two errors and Alan Massey did not attack the ball from a corner."

"We need to defend better and that means working harder off the ball. We have lost three games in a row and we have to address it quickly but I will back my players to the hilt."

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