

### News briefly

#### Tigers held in season opener

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS drew 1-1 at home to St Margaretsbury in the South Midlands Premier on Saturday. The Tigers conceded the opening goal in the first half when Bradley Byford found the net. But Kingsbury piled on the pressure and were rewarded in the second half when centre-back Marcus Lansiquot rose to head home the equaliser.

#### Unbeaten Boro set for home opener

HARROW BOROUGH start their Ryman Premier campaign on Saturday with a home game against Canvey Island. Boro finished their pre-season unbeaten after a 2-2 draw at Met Police on Monday night. Boro found themselves 2-0 down but a brace from trialist striker Jake Lovell earning the draw.

#### Batting collapse costs Parkfield

PARKFIELD AND HEADSTONE wasted a good opportunity to defeat Old Haberdashers in their Division Five draw on Saturday. Prashant Nagarajan claimed six for 26 as Habs were bowled out for 143. Parkfield made a bright start to their innings through Ian Schmid before a host of wickets fell and ended their hopes of victory on 131 for nine.

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

## Bartlett eyes up best ever Stones finish

by SIMON MAIL  
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WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett says he is as confident as he has ever been heading into the new season. The Stones were in contention for a Ryman Premier play-off spot last season after a fine run towards the end of the campaign, eventually finishing in seventh. Bartlett has been able to retain most of his squad and bolstered it with a number of summer signings including strikers Charlie Mpi and Ross Lafayette. The Stones had a strong pre-season, with only one defeat against Watford, leaving them with plenty of confidence ahead of Saturday's opener. Bartlett said: "The nucleus of the players is there and we've managed to add to the squad. I'm confident that we will be able to continue up the pyramid. "We finished seventh last year and every season bar one we've managed to improve on our position. I would love that to happen in my testimonial year and if we could make the play-offs then that would be ideal."

Wealdstone have a number of doubts ahead of Saturday's trip to Billericay Town but one player definitely out is James Gray after he was sent off for a headbutt in last weekend's draw at Hitchin. The 29-year-old will miss the first three games due to suspension and Greg Ngoyi, Ryan Ashe and Lee Chappell are all hampered by injuries.

Bartlett added: "Pre-season had gone so smoothly but now we have had a few problems which we could have done without. We're going to have them during the season so why shouldn't we get them now?"

"We're going to have hiccups throughout the season and it's how we deal with them that will decide how we do.

"Billericay are a very well organised side and it's an away opener so we will be looking to make sure we come back with something."

## Turner chases medal



Chasing glory: Sprinter Laura Turner believes the relay team can make an impact in Germany.

LAURA TURNER insists Great Britain's women sprinters can silence their critics at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin.

The Harrow sprinter, who will compete in the 100m relay, is confident Great Britain can emerge from the disappointment of dropping the baton at last year's Olympics and make an impact in Germany.

"It is always the girls who are slightly forgotten about and we really, really want to make amends and change that," she said.

"We think it has been unfair because we are a good bunch of girls and in the last three years we have positioned higher than previous British teams have done.

"So we are all really hoping that we can break through this year and show a lot of our critics that they were wrong."

UK Athletics invested heavily in their relay squads following the men's gold medal success at the Athens Olympics – spending £500,000 in the last Olympic cycle.

Turner said: "There are quite a few teams who can potentially medal and we are definitely one of them."

Meanwhile, British 1500m number one Andy Baddeley insists he's over his ankle injury and raring to go in Berlin next week.

Baddeley was a major doubt to join up with the British squad but the Harrow star proved his fitness in Germany at the weekend in a 1,000m race, where he finished third.

"If I hadn't had the injury earlier in the summer I wouldn't have been running in Germany but it was something that I needed to do," said Baddeley. "I wouldn't have normally run that close to a major champs but I felt I needed to.

"I have worked really hard to get back to where I am now and injuries are just something we all have to deal with."

● Laura Turner and Andy Baddeley are GB&NI team athletes, benefiting from the Aviva funded UKA preparation camp ahead of the 2009 World Championships in Berlin. Visit [aviva.co.uk/athletics](http://aviva.co.uk/athletics) for more info

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