

### News briefly

#### Tigers march on in Premier Cup

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS won 2-1 at Langford in the Premier Division Cup on Tuesday night. Goals from Paulius Olisaukas and Rehia Osagie fired them into the next round. But the Tigers were dumped out of the FA Cup on Saturday after being thrashed 5-1 at Bedford Town. Kingsbury were 3-0 down after only 21 minutes of the tie before they hit a consolation through Edson Cata.

#### Wood lose to rivals in FA Cup

NORTHWOOD's hopes of an FA Cup run this season are over after losing 3-1 at Wingate and Finchley in their replay on Tuesday evening. Three second-half goals were enough to knock them out of the competition despite John Christian's effort. Wood twice squandered a lead in their initial 2-2 draw on Saturday.

#### Title hopes alive for Middlesex

MIDDLESEX are top of the Pro40 Division Two after beating Derbyshire by 50 runs. Middlesex's final match of the season is against Northants at Uxbridge on Saturday. It has been a welcome run of form for the side after a dismal campaign in the County Championship Two where they have won only twice all season.

News immediately:  
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## Boro crash out of cup

by SIMON MAIL  
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HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell criticised his side for failing to turn up in their 2-0 replay defeat to Chesham United in the FA Cup at Earlsmead on Tuesday night.

Boro were dumped out of the competition, by the lower league rivals, after their worst performance of the season, with Howell describing their preparation as "unprofessional". A number of players did not turn up until just before kick-off and Dwayne Clarke had to be left out of the side after the heavy rain played havoc with their arrival.

Howell said: "The preparation was unprofessional and very bad. We didn't show up before the game and we didn't show up when the whistle went to start the match. It was very disappointing. In our most important game so far [this season] we put in our worst performance.

"We gave a poor second-half performance where we just never got going. The prize money for winning was £3,000 and I would have fancied our chances if we had got through and faced Billericay Town.

"Chesham were exactly what I expected but I did not expect to get what we delivered."

Howell, who saw his side held 1-1 at Chesham in the first game on Saturday, is refusing to press the panic button despite the setback and insists he will keep faith with his players ahead of this weekend's Ryman Premier trip to AFC Hornchurch.

"We just need to get ourselves back on track," the manager said. "I don't think it's time for a knee jerk reaction because I have to give them a chance to get it out of their system.

"They have done very well for me up to now and we just need to get back on track. There is no better way after that than to go out and get the win."

AFC Hornchurch have had a slow start to the season but Howell expects them to rise up the table.

"The league is a little bit misleading but I'm sure Hornchurch will go on a decent run and challenge in the top half."

## Mpi red stuns Stones



Innocuous challenge: Charlie Mpi was controversially sent off for at the weekend.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett described the decision to send off Charlie Mpi in their FA Cup win at Arlesey Town as "astounding".

The Stones booked their place in the next round after a 2-1 win on Saturday, after goals from Ryan Ashe and Greg Ngoyi, but striker Mpi faces a three-match ban. He was dismissed for an alleged challenge but Bartlett insists his player was innocent claiming the attacker ran into Mpi.

Bartlett said: "The sending off was absolutely ridiculous. It was absolutely astounding but there is nothing we can do about it because we only have photographic evidence.

"I didn't think Charlie did anything to warrant a yellow card let alone a sending off. It's disappointing because with his pace he can have such an impact."

Wealdstone have strengthened their options in attack by signing young Waltham Abbey striker Chris Ellerbeck. Bartlett was chasing him last season, before he opted to join Harlow, but he has finally got his man.

"I think he will be a very good asset," he added. "He will offer a bit more competition and at the moment we haven't seen the best form from our forwards."

The Stones have a virtually full squad to choose from this weekend as they face bottom side Bognor Regis Town in the Ryman Premier at Grosvenor Vale.

Bartlett expects an improvement from Saturday's display and will not underestimate the strugglers.

He said: "We have had a solid start to the season and they haven't. But there are no easy games and we won't treat Bognor any differently to any other side. We know we have to improve on our last performance."

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