

News briefly

Supersub Clarke earns Boro win

DEWAYNE CLARKE came off the bench and scored twice to give Harrow Borough a 2-0 home win over Boreham Wood in the Ryman Premier on Tuesday night. He opened the scoring in the 71st minute and added the second two minutes from time. Boro are back in action on Saturday at Earlsmead when they host Waltham Abbey.

Tigers ease away from trouble

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS moved away from the relegation zone in the South Midlands Premier after a 2-0 home win over Langford on Saturday. The hosts opened the scoring in the 24th minute when Artiomias Barinovas smashed in an unstoppable effort. The second goal came just before the break when Barinovas's strike was deflected off Gus Stewart into the net.

Easy friendly win for in-form Harrow

HARROW RFC cruised to a 54-5 win at Watford in a friendly on Saturday. Tries from Shaun Pratt, Gary Conroy, Tom Kelly and Adam West made it 26-5 at the break. The second half was scrappier but Harrow extended their lead when Chris Walsh crossed over the line. Kelly added two more scores before Dave Ross sealed the win.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

Barker in shape of his life ahead of battle of Britain

by SIMON MAIL
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DARREN BARKER says he is in the best shape of his life ahead of Saturday's British middleweight title fight against Wayne Elcock.

The 27-year-old Barnet boxer puts his Commonwealth title on the line at the Brentwood Centre in Essex and is gunning for the vacant British belt. 'Dazzling' Darren has spent 14 weeks preparing for the contest since his last fight back in May when he stopped Darren McDermott in Watford.

Barker said: "It's been a long training camp and I can't wait to get in the ring on Saturday. I would say I'm in the best condition of my life. It's a combination of fitness and experience which has given me the total package now. I'm in the best shape of my life.

"Since I was a kid it's been a dream of mine [British title]. It's always been a goal of mine and it's one I definitely want to win. It's had great champions in the past and I want to be one of them."

Barker, unbeaten in 20 fights, was set to challenge previous champion Matthew Macklin but it fell through after the fighter, who defeated Elcock, went on to win the European belt.

The avid Chelsea fan said: "We were looking at a September fight and the Macklin fight had been sanctioned by the board. I was gutted when it fell through because he was the British champion and whoever won would have been seen as the out and out number one. I have one eye on the future and I don't blame him but hopefully we can get it on some time soon."

Barker admits 'Mad Dog' Elcock will be a dangerous proposition for him because the veteran fighter has nothing to lose as he looks to end his career with a notable scalp.

"I've got a lot of respect for him," Barker added. "He has fought for world titles and will be dangerous. He is 35 so he will give it his all. If he loses, it's the end of the road so it will be a tough fight because he has nothing to lose."

Barker, who has 13 knockouts to his name, has always insisted he is good enough to win a world title and believes a win on Saturday can thrust him into contention.

He said: "I don't want to lose focus on this fight but I've got one eye on my future. I definitely want world titles and I want to be taking on the champions after this. I know I can become a world champion and I've just got to be patient."



Title defence: Darren Barker hopes to add the British belt to his Commonwealth championship this weekend.
Picture: ACTION IMAGES

Stones in shootout drama

WEALDSTONE survived an edgy encounter with Met Police to win 3-1 on penalties in the Ryman League Cup on Tuesday night.

The Stones looked to be cruising after going 2-0 up early on but the visitors bounced back and forced penalties after earning a 2-2 draw.

Wealdstone took the lead after 14 minutes when Greg Ngoyi burst through and smashed in the opener.

Strike partner Charlie Mpi added the second within four minutes when he tapped in a cross.

But goals from Femi Ismail and an own goal from Lee Chappell set up a tense finish.

The win was an important response after the Stones were dumped out of the FA Trophy on Saturday following a 3-0 defeat at Farnborough.

The Zameretto Premier leaders showed their quality with a stunning first half which left Wealdstone in disarray.

Kezie Ibe fired in the first goal inside just two minutes and centre-back Steve Robinson beat goalkeeper Sean Thomas for the second.

Bradley Bubb killed off the cup tie before half-time when he headed in the third goal.

The Stones are back in Ryman Premier action this weekend when they travel to Sutton United.

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