

### News briefly

#### Five star show from Borough

HARROW BOROUGH turned on the style in their 5-3 home win over Waltham Abbey on Saturday. Despite goals from Tobi Jinadu and Ryan Watts, the hosts found themselves 3-2 down. But further efforts from Jinadu, Kenta Nakashima and Dewayne Clarke completed the comeback. The match also featured the miss of the season after Rocky Baptiste raced through but fired wide in front of an empty net late on.

#### New coaching set-up agreed

MIDDLESEX CCC have announced Richard Scott as their new head coach. Scott was in charge on a temporary basis after Toby Radford's departure in July. Richard Johnson will act as assistant coach and Mark O'Neill has been confirmed as batting coach.

#### Harrow extend winning start

HARROW RFC maintained their superb start to the season with a 41-0 win over Borehamwood in a friendly. Gary Conroy scored the opening try of the game as Harrow overcame their rivals. Two Tom Kelly tries sealed the victory.

## Barker sets sights on world glory after British success

by SIMON MAIL  
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DARREN BARKER has targeted a world title shot after adding to his growing reputation by winning the British middleweight championship.

The undefeated boxer won the vacant British belt and successfully defended his Commonwealth title after a seventh round stoppage of Danny Butler in Brentwood on Saturday night.

Barnet based Barker said: "We believe we're ready to go all the way to world level. I'm a smart, intelligent boxer and I believe I've got all the skills and tools to win any of those world titles out there."

"It's a dream come true. I've never once overlooked the British title and I'm proud to win it."

"Dazzling" Darren was set to take on veteran Wayne Elcock but the Birmingham fighter pulled out with a stomach virus and 22-year-old Butler stepped in at the last minute. The youngster had a lively start in the first round but Barker took control from the second round where he started to dominate.

Barker, 27, said: "I've got so much respect for Danny for coming in and saving the show. He was game, he wanted to take this title from me. It was a professional job and I didn't want to take any chances. I got the job done and it's a dream come true."

He dedicated the victory to his late brother Gary who died in a car accident three years ago.

Barker said: "He's always with me. Everything I do in life even if it's making a cup of tea. He was my brother, my best friend and he'll always be with me. I'll never forget him and this is dedicated to Gary."

Promoter Mick Hennessy said: "Darren Barker is already by far the best middleweight in Europe and we are going to launch him on the world scene next year so he can fulfil another dream, to become a marquee world champion."



Still unbeaten: Darren Barker added the British middleweight title to his Commonwealth belt after beating Danny Butler. Picture: ACTION IMAGES

## Injury hit Wealdstone face leaders

WEALDSTONE face a "massive" challenge as their injury hit squad prepare to take on runaway Ryman Premier leaders Dartford on Saturday.

The Stones were second in the table earlier in the season and even managed a 1-1 draw at Dartford but they have plenty of problems ahead of the clash at Grosvenor Vale.

Goalkeeper Sean Thomas is out for six weeks with a fractured finger and Kieron Forbes is likely to need a knee operation. Ken During and James Gray also went off during the 5-0 defeat at Sutton United last weekend and Chris Ellerbeck has also picked up a hamstring problem.

Stones boss Gordon Bartlett said: "Our biggest concern now is the walking wounded. We were poor on Saturday but we have tried to refocus and patch things up for a massive game on Saturday."

"Dartford are very experienced, strong and well organised. They're a very good side and their record speaks for itself but we have to make sure we bounce back on the weekend."

Wealdstone suffered their heaviest defeat of the campaign at Sutton but Bartlett is refusing to press the panic button.

"A defeat has been coming because we've not been playing that well. I feel we were mentally and physically drained after the FA Cup run."

"Our energy levels were very low but we've had a positive meeting where everybody aired their views. We have to look at the whole picture."

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