

News briefly

Sarries close in on semi-final

SARACENS can qualify for the LV= Cup semi-finals with a win over Newport Gwent Dragons this week. The Men in Black need to defeat the Welsh side on Sunday at Vicarage Road to ensure they finish above Leicester Tigers and Sale in their pool. Sarries cruised to a 28-5 win at Leeds Carnegie in the competition on Friday night. Tries from Schalk Brits, Ernst Joubert, Adam Powell and Justin Marshall earned them maximum points at Headingley.

Double header joy for Harrow

HARROW RFC completed a league and cup double over Northolt after thrashing them 79-5 on Saturday. The visitors ran in 13 tries to book their place in the semi-finals of the North West Middlesex Floodlit Cup. James Power scored twice in the first half with Brendan O'Sullivan and Nick Argent also adding two tries apiece.

New six-a-side teams wanted

FOOTBALL MUNDIAL are looking for new teams to join their six-a-side league on Monday nights. Free entry to the league, which is based at Harrow School, is on offer. For more information ring 01937 841440.

Bartlett issues warning after Carshalton defeat

by SIMON MAIL
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WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett has told his side to improve dramatically or face the prospect of missing out on a play-off spot.

The Stones were riding high in second spot before Christmas but, after a prolonged break due to the cold snap, his team have failed to win this year and are slipping down the Ryman Premier table.

Their latest setback came on Tuesday night after a 4-2 defeat at Carshalton Athletic, despite goals from Greg Ngoyi and Ryan Ashe, which finished with Lee Chappell sent off.

Bartlett said: "We just have to reflect on a very bad night at the office and we have to react positively and quickly.

"It seemed to be one disaster after another for us. It's extremely disappointing and I have to say that at the moment we need to get back to the cohesion, energy and fluency that we had prior to the break.

"Things are not right at the moment and we have to up the ante big time if we want to reach the play-offs.

"We have no divine right to win football matches and the general application we have at the moment is nowhere near where it has been."

It completed a frustrating week after the Stones were held to a 1-1 draw at Canvey Island on Saturday.

Callum Martin fired the visitors in front in the second half and they felt hard done by when he netted his second but it was ruled out after the referee refused to play the advantage and sent off a home defender.

Wealdstone were ultimately punished when the hosts converted a penalty at the second attempt after goalkeeper Sean Thomas was adjudged to have come off his line in saving the first effort.

Bartlett said: "The two decisions by the referee cost us dearly."

Bartlett, whose side travel to Tonbridge Angels in the Ryman League Cup this evening, will celebrate his 1000th game in charge of the club on Saturday against Waltham Abbey at St George's Stadium.

The manager, who began his tenure in 1995, said: "It hasn't been plain sailing by any means, but as we approach this milestone, we can look back with a lot of pride on what we have achieved, especially when you consider some of the major setbacks along the way.

"Our thanks go to everyone who has helped us over the years and we look forward to an even more successful future."



Landmark event: Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett is set for his 1000th game in charge. Picture: HOLLY CANT

Frustration after game is called off

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell could not hide his frustration after their clash with league-leaders Dartford was postponed on Saturday.

Howell was in agreement with his opposing manager, that the pitch was playable because only an eight-yard area on the wing was frozen, but the referee still called it off.

Boro's manager said: "I was annoyed because the pitch was playable. Ninety eight per cent of the pitch was fine and we pleaded with the referee to play the game.

"Dartford had travelled to the ground and it was so disappointing. I think referees are put under too much pressure and health and safety in football has gone mad."

Boro booked their place in the quarter-finals of the London Senior Cup on Tuesday night after a comfortable 3-0 win over Beckenham Town at Earlsmead.

Howell handed debuts to left-back Ronayne Marsh-Brown and midfielder James King after they were signed on dual registrations from Staines Town.

An own goal from James Holder fired the hosts in front and they stretched their lead when Kenta Nakashima slotted the ball home.

Rocky Baptiste netted the third which ended his goal drought dating back to his infamous 'miss of the century' back in November.

Howell takes his side to Billericay on Saturday who should be in a confident mood after a shock win over Dartford on Tuesday.

"They are a team with a decent budget and pedigree," Howell said.

"They're a team that could easily go on a run to the play-offs and if they beat us then they go above us."

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