

### News briefly

#### Harrow student gets recognition

RAJIV PATEL has been given a special award for taking part in a new Golf Ambassadors Programme. The 21-year-old Harrow student has become a qualified level one golf coach and assisted coaches in various junior academy centres. Patel was recognised, alongside two fellow students, at an evening hosted by the Berks Bucks and Oxon Golf Partnership.

#### Stones capture midfielder

WEALDSTONE have strengthened their squad by signing experienced midfielder Dean Smith. The 27-year-old has joined the Stones after leaving Blue Square South side Weymouth. Smith previously played for Team Bath, making more than 100 appearances.

#### Sarries misfire again at Wasps

SARACENS lost their third Guinness Premiership match in their last four games after a dismal 9-0 defeat at London Wasps on Sunday. The Men in Black have never won at Adams Park and this run never looked like being broken after three penalties from Aussie-bound star Danny Cipriani. Sarries host Bath on Sunday.

## Bartlett backs Stones to turn their form around

by SIMON MAIL  
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WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett has backed his beleaguered team to turn their miserable form around.

The Stones lost 3-2 at home to AFC Hornchurch on Saturday, which extended their run this year to just one win in the last nine games.

Bartlett said: "We carried on where we left off recently. We were very flat and we need to find a spark and energy from somewhere to turn the situation around."

"The bottom line is we have to find the reason before we waste a wonderful platform. We still have to remain positive because we're in a great situation just two points off the play-offs."

"We are nicely placed so there is no reason why we can't turn our current form around."

Former Watford left-back Louis Lavers was handed his debut for the Stones but they fell behind after 29 minutes to Ross Wall's effort.

But Danny Spendlove was fouled in the area and Ryan Ashe converted the penalty for the equaliser.

Michael Spencer restored the Urchins' lead in the second half and Jamie Dormer piled on the misery for Wealdstone.

Callum Martin netted a late goal but it could not prevent the Stones' third consecutive home defeat.

"The mindset has got to change," Bartlett said. "We have to draw on our confidence from the early part of the season because it seems to be lacking at the moment."

"It's predominantly the same players but our energy levels are nowhere near as good as early doors."

"The lads were looking so good prior to the new year but they're not now reaching those levels."

The Stones travel to second-placed Kingstonian this evening in a rearranged Ryman Premier game. Bartlett respects the challenge his side are up against but believes concentrating on themselves is the key to getting a confidence-boosting result.

He added: "Kingstonian lost a lot of games at the start of the season but they have been on an excellent run. They're a good, solid side and difficult to beat but we have to get our own house in order."

Wealdstone's busy fixture list continues on Saturday at the St George's Stadium against strugglers Margate.

"We need to get our home form going again and we're fully capable of doing that."



Goal scorer: Callum Martin's effort could not prevent another league defeat for the Stones.  
Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Howell urges Borough to be more ruthless

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell wants his side to be more ruthless despite seeing them extend their unbeaten league run to six games.

Boro won 2-1 at Aveley on Saturday but Howell was concerned his side let the hosts back into the game when they should have been out of sight.

Howell said: "It's been like that for the last six matches where all the games should have been over by half time."

"We don't want to get into a situation where we are playing well but in the last five minutes we could end up losing the three points."

"When we are in the ascendancy then we have to take better advantage than at the moment."

"It was a really decent performance against a side in good form but we thought we'd done enough at 2-0 and let them back into the game."

Two goals from last month's signing Lewis Cook earned the three points and Howell believes the talented winger is playing to his potential after an unhappy spell at Kingstonian.

"He is a player that always had the potential," Howell said. "He just needs someone to appreciate and understand him. We just tried to give him a bit of love."

Boro travel to Maidstone United this weekend and Howell expects his team to have to get their hands dirty if they are to come away with another three points.

He said: "If the pitch is as bad as I've heard it could be then it will be very difficult conditions. It might be a case of just rolling up our sleeves and getting on with it."

"Maidstone have found a resurgence in form under their new manager but we just have to remain focused."

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