

### News briefly

#### England Test debut for Finn

MIDDLESEX fast bowler Steve Finn impressed during his senior debut for England in their first Test victory over Bangladesh. The 20-year-old seamer claimed two wickets on a difficult pitch in Chitragong. Finn was called up as bowling cover after injuries but his form in the warm-up game earned him an unlikely place in the team. The Watford star took one for 48 and one for 47 and should keep his place for Saturday's second Test.

#### Tigers crash to home defeat

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS slumped to a 4-2 home defeat against Broxbourne Borough on Tuesday night in the South Midlands Premier. The Tigers earned a 3-1 win at Harefield United on Saturday. Renars Zarchenko fired them in front and Paulius Olisaukas added the second. The hosts replied before Olisaukas sealed the win late on.

#### Cup hopes over for Saracens

SARACENS lost in the LV=Cup semi-final 31-20 at Northampton Saints on Sunday. The Men in Black paid the price for first-half sinbins for Ernst Joubert and Richard Skuse as the hosts ran in four tries. A late effort from Justin Melck was only a consolation for Sarries.

## Harrow Borough setback after Clarke leaves club

by SIMON MAIL  
smail@london.newsquest.co.uk

HARROW BOROUGH have suffered a blow after striker Dewayne Clarke joined Boreham Wood on Tuesday.

The mercurial talent received a seven-day approach from Ryman Premier rivals Wood, which was their third offer for him in the last year, and after an initial lack of interest decided to leave Earlsmead.

His decision is understood to be a financial move after Wood were prepared to offer the forward about four times as much money as Boro could give him.

Boro manager David Howell said: "He wasn't that fussed but after the weekend he has decided he wants to go.

"I'm obviously disappointed but the thing with Dewayne is he's high maintenance. This is because of his personality and his work commitments but he has improved a great deal and was a lot more responsible.

"There are no players with contracts and anybody can leave tomorrow if they want. That is the pitfall of the financial situation we are in."

It seemed like Clarke, 31, was set to leave Boro in the New Year after having a bust-up with team-mate James Fraser but the striker cleared the air and was brought back into

the side.

Howell wants to bring in a replacement but believes it could actually benefit the side because he was growing concerned with Clarke's partnership with Rocky Baptiste.

Howell said: "I wasn't fully happy with the partnership because I felt they were not going for the jugular. They were always trying to be too silky, looking to play like Arsenal, for a goal of the season. I made it clear I wanted a better return and it was something I was going to have to address because it was becoming a problem."

Clarke's new club got the better of Boro on Saturday in a 1-0 win at Meadow Park. The match winner, Greg Morgan, is well known to Howell who put in an approach for him last week. But Morgan is unlikely to join Boro after picking up an injury.

Howell's side host Tonbridge Angels on Saturday in the first of two meetings in the space of ten days. After only picking up two points in the last four games, the manager wants them to rediscover the winning habit with the team only six points from the play-offs.

"We have to get ourselves back on track and keep in contention," he added. "The encouraging thing is in the four matches we could have won all the games and it is not like there is a great deal wrong."



Exit door: Dewayne Clarke has left Harrow Borough. Picture: RON WHITFIELD

## Bartlett will make changes for semi-final

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett is not prepared to put his side's promotion prospects at risk in tonight's Championship Manager Cup semi-final.

The Stones have faced an exhausting run of games after the winter postponements and Bartlett accepts he needs to freshen up his side, against Croydon Athletic, if they are to maintain their play-off hopes.

Bartlett said: "There is no doubt fatigue and tiredness will play a major part in our campaign. We want to do well but the boys will have played eight games in 17 days and we have to be sensible.

"There have got to be changes because there are a few tired bodies out there. I want to win the game but our priority has to be getting into the play-offs and I don't want to blow both the league and cup."

The Stones drew their second match of the week on Tuesday night as they were held 0-0 by Billericay Town.

Wealdstone enjoyed a dream start against promotion rivals Kingstonian on Saturday leading 2-0 after five minutes with goals from Danny Spendlove and Chris O'Leary. But the visitors battled back and a late goal earned them a share of the points.

Bartlett refused to be discouraged by the result and wants to build on their performance.

"They are a very good side and to get a draw against them is no disgrace," he said. "We were disappointed to concede the goals when we did because if we had held onto 2-0 for a bit longer then I'm sure we would have had the upper hand.

"I think we will have a much better idea of where we're going to finish after the next week because we're playing two teams [Hastings and Tooting] in or around the play-offs."

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