

### News briefly

#### Middlesex sign West Indies star

MIDDLESEX CCC have signed West Indies pace bowler Pedro Collins for the new season. The 33-year-old has played in more than 30 Test matches and 30 one-day internationals. Collins has taken 106 Test wickets and 39 one day wickets. His arrival will boost a strong seam attack featuring England's latest newcomer Steve Finn.

#### Five-star show from Tigers

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS thrashed Welwyn Garden City 5-1 in the South Midlands Premier on Saturday. Kye Hendrix opened the scoring for Kingsbury and Paulius Olisaukas grabbed the second. Hardy Pinto Moreira added another and Farhad Anvari made it 4-0 at half time. Steven Roleo-Doe headed in the Tigers' fifth goal. Kingsbury also won 3-2 at Langford on Tuesday.

#### Harrow Boro denied win

HARROW BOROUGH squandered a 2-0 lead in their 2-2 draw at home to Horsham in the Ryman Premier on Saturday. The hosts went in front through Kurt Morlese and Danny McGonigle extended the lead. But two goals from Horsham denied Boro. David Howell's side host Cray on Saturday.

## Bartlett claims play-offs are in Stones' hands

by SIMON MAIL  
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WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett is adamant reaching the Ryman Premier play-offs is within their grasp.

The Stones secured a vital 3-2 win at Maidstone United on Saturday which leaves them only three points off the top-five. Wealdstone have nine league games left, with seven of them at home, and the manager knows his team are good enough to reach their target.

Bartlett said: "It's very much in our hands. I've said all along that 70 points will get in the play-offs so we are looking at six wins out of nine.

"We are capable of achieving that which is good news, but the way teams have beaten each other this season, we may not even need that to get in them."

The Stones made a dream start to Saturday's game taking the lead after two minutes when Ryan Ashe fired the ball into the net.

Maidstone equalised in the second half but the visitors restored their lead through inform Callum Martin.

United drew level again 13 minutes from time but Wealdstone sealed a vital win when Martin netted the winner five minutes later.

The result was a welcome response after the heartbreak of losing on penalties to Leatherhead last week in the Championship Manager cup final.

Bartlett said: "We needed a response and full credit to the players because it was very important to bounce back. It put us right back into contention."

The Stones face a pivotal weekend as they host fellow promotion contenders Tonbridge Angels on Saturday before travelling to Harrow Borough on Easter Monday.

Angels are the form side in the division having won nine of their last ten matches and Boro are certain to provide a stern test in the hotly contested derby.

"It is a very important time for us but we're still in the driving seat," Bartlett added.

"Harrow Borough have had a bad March but it's a local derby and anything can happen. We have had some good results against them recently, although the last few games were very tight, but we have no divine right to win. We will show them all the respect.

"We have to make sure we prepare properly for the game. If we can get another win then that make our target a little bit easier."



Upbeat: Stones boss Gordon Bartlett is looking forward to the crucial Easter programme.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Cup glory for Psycho's successors

by JACK ROYSTON

A KENTON school's football team has won the Middlesex Cup for the first time since Stuart 'Psycho' Pearce was in the side 34 years ago.

The Under-13s at Claremont High School sent Acton High packing on Friday with a 5-2 win and went on to become Brent champions when they beat Preston Manor on Monday.

The last time the pupils won the Middlesex Cup was in 1976 when former England captain Pearce was in their ranks.

Jordan Brown, 13, the team's captain, said: "Everyone in our school is proud of us, they're saying that they couldn't believe we scored five goals.

"The school hasn't won the Middlesex Cup in thirty years.

"I don't think anyone in Brent has won it in a long time. It's a great

achievement for us and we are just really proud of ourselves.

"I've seen highlights of Stuart Pearce when he played in Euro 96. I would be honoured to go and do half the stuff he did."

Players have been getting into school early for training before lessons start and the side only lost one match this season.

They beat six teams to bring home the Middlesex Cup in a straight knock out tournament.

Jamie Robertson, the team's coach, said: "The kids were just really excited and proud of everything they have done because it's an amazing achievement.

"They played brilliantly - they went 5-0 up against a very good side.

"We are hoping Jordan will be our next Stuart Pearce. He's scored 50 goals this season."

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