

News briefly

### Middlesex lose to Glamorgan

MIDDLESEX CCC are still searching for their first win of the season after a dismal defeat to Glamorgan at Lord's on Sunday. The Welsh side wrapped up a 76-run victory which was their first at the home of cricket in 56 years. Dawid Malan struck 115 for the hosts in the second innings but Andrew Strauss provided the only other decent contribution with 69.

### Harrow reach Vase final

HARROW RFC are through to Saturday's Middlesex Federation final after beating Hackney 37-20. Tries from Gary Conroy, James Power and Nick Argent handed the visitors a 22-13 half-time lead. Conroy went on to complete his hat-trick for Harrow in the second half. Their reward is a home clash against HAC, with a 2.30pm kick-off at Grove Field.

### Sarries put on Wembley show

SARACENS are on the verge of securing a Guinness Premiership play-off spot after a 37-18 win over Harlequins at Wembley. The Men in Black scored twice early on through Andy Saull and further efforts from Schalk Brits, Ernst Joubert and Michael Tagicakibau sealed the bonus-point win.

## Massey equaliser keeps Stones in play-off hunt

by SIMON MAIL  
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WEALDSTONE kept their play-off hopes alive after a 1-1 draw against Ryman Premier champions Dartford at Grosvenor Vale on Tuesday night.

The Stones rescued a point with a late equaliser from Alan Massey which means they head into tonight's pivotal clash with Tonbridge Angels only two points off the top five.

Wealdstone were staring at a defeat which would have been a major blow to their promotion hopes but with ten minutes remaining Massey got the faintest of touches on Lee Chappell's long throw and steered the ball home.

The Stones' nearest challengers stumbled during the week and the results mean Wealdstone are still in contention heading into the final weekend of the league season.

Bartlett said: "We went into the match thinking that it was a must win game.

"But with results elsewhere it still keeps us in the hunt going into the last 48 hours. We're still in with a chance and we're delighted with that.

"We have drawn against the top side in our division and over the two games we haven't been beaten by them.

"I felt that we were a little bit

lacklustre in the first half. Our energy levels weren't what we had hoped for but in the second half I thought the response was absolutely superb. We thoroughly deserved our equaliser and it sets us up nicely for the Tonbridge game."

Wealdstone are only behind Tonbridge on goal difference and Bartlett accepts his side cannot afford to slip up against their nearest rivals with only two matches left this season.

He added: "Tonbridge is a must win game. If we are to have a chance then we have to go out and beat them."

Bartlett feared his team had blown their promotion hopes after a 1-0 home defeat to Aveley last week but they responded in the best possible way winning 3-1 at Horsham on Saturday.

Wycombe striker Matt McClure, who is on work experience, made the biggest impact for the Stones scoring two superb goals in the win.

Horsham pulled one back but Chris O'Leary sealed maximum points for Wealdstone with a second-half effort.

"I was delighted by the response on Saturday which kept our season alive," Bartlett added.

Wealdstone's final game is at the St George's Stadium on Saturday against relegation-threatened Carshalton Athletic.



On target: Matt McClure struck twice at Horsham to keep the Stones' play-off hopes intact. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Howell thanks players after Boro return

HARROW BOROUGH boss David Howell has thanked his players for their support after he made an emotional return to the touchline following the death of his mother.

Howell was touched by the personal messages from his squad and took charge of the side for the 1-1 draw against Sutton United on Saturday, after missing the previous four games.

Howell said: "It was 48 hours after the funeral but I just felt that I had to start somewhere.

"The fact we only had three games left did help and I just wanted us to try and finish as well as we can and look towards the summer.

"The club have been brilliant. I could have stayed off for the rest of the season if I wanted to.

"Ken Charlery [first-team coach] has stepped in and done really well in the four games, with the highlight being the win over Wealdstone.

"The players all contacted me and sent their condolences which was very touching. I went in to thank them and that was very emotional. I just shook hands and wished them well."

Tobi Jinadu fired Boro into the lead before the hosts were reduced to ten men after goalkeeper Andray Baptiste clattered into an attacker. Second-placed Sutton punished Boro by netting a late equaliser.

It was their 13th draw of the season and Howell believes this has denied them a strong league position.

He said: "We have drawn too many matches this season and it has cost us."

Boro finish the season at home to Cray tonight before visiting Ashford Town [Middlesex] on Saturday.

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