

News briefly

Six of the best for Borough

HARROW BOROUGH ended the season on a high after a 6-2 win at Ashford Town (Middlesex) on Saturday. The result relegated the hosts and helped David Howell's team finish in 14th position in the Ryman Premier. Ashford opened the scoring but Kurt Morlese, Lewis Cook, Rocky Baptiste, Kenta Nakashima and an own goal put Boro 5-1 up. Ashford scored again but Baptiste completed the rout.

Tigers sign off with victory

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS won 3-2 at Broxbourne Borough on Tuesday in their final South Midlands Premier game of the season. The Tigers eased to a 5-1 win at Welwyn Garden City on Saturday. After falling behind, Kingsbury turned the game around with goals from Rehia Osagie, Farhad Anvari, Hardy Pinto Moreira and Aderit Manuel.

Super Saracens stun Saints

SARACENS booked their spot in the Guinness Premiership play-offs after a brilliant 28-27 win at Northampton Saints on Saturday. Tries from Ernst Joubert, Adam Powell and Rodd Penney continued Sarries' recent resurgence and ended Northampton's unbeaten home record.

Carshalton defeat ends Stones' play-off bid

by SIMON MAIL
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WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett blamed his side's failure to reach the play-offs on a punishing run-in.

The Stones played their last nine matches in 20 days and his team ran out of steam losing their final match 4-1 at home to Carshalton Athletic on Saturday.

Bartlett said: "It was a game too far. They were just worn out and their legs were gone.

"The attitude has been absolutely outstanding all season but the backlog of fixtures took its toll. There was nothing left in the tank. The brain was functioning but the body wasn't able to.

"We had 20 matches in 40 days and the last ten came in the last three weeks. Looking at Carshalton, they hadn't played all week and they had to get a victory to stay up. They were also offered a substantial sum of money to stay up."

A nightmare first half at Grosvenor Vale ended their play-off hopes with Carshalton, who staved off relegation, taking a 3-0 lead. Greg Nogyi pulled one back but another away goal ended the contest before half time.

Bartlett is refusing to be downbeat despite their near miss in the league. The manager has

faith in his squad and believes their achievements this year bode well for next season.

He said: "The amount of games is the reason we fell just short but there are so many positives after reaching a cup final, going on the FA Cup run and finishing sixth in the league.

"I'm pleased to have maintained the record of having done as well or better in 14 of the 15 seasons I've been here.

"There is a great atmosphere around the place and our crowds have gone up. It all bodes well but we can't take anything for granted. Carshalton lost in the play-off final last year and needed to win on the last day to stay up so no team has any divine right.

"There are not many negatives and we could harp on about missing out but we are building on the positives. The target next year will be to reach the play-offs."

Bartlett is already planning his squad for next season and does not envisage too many changes. One player who has left the club is Reece Yorke. The 17-year-old defender has agreed a one-year deal with League Two side Barnet.

The manager added: "I want to keep the nucleus of the squad together and I think I probably will. There won't be wholesale changes but I know what I want. There are two or three players that I want to bring in."



So close: Stones boss Gordon Bartlett is taking the positives from his side's exhausting season. Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Double hopes hit by Hitchin

HARROW BOROUGH's Reserve Team manager Stuart Crawford fears his side's hopes of a first double could be unfairly scuppered.

Boro are through to the President's Cup Final after a 2-0 win over Hayes and Yeading United but the club could miss out on the Capital Football Western Division title after Hitchin pulled out of a match last week.

The opposition sent an email conceding the match but the league claims only matches which are played can earn points which means Boro could be pipped by United.

Boro are one point clear of them but if their match against Hitchin is not rearranged two wins for their rivals will be enough to pinch the league.

Crawford said: "It's very unfair on the guys. It's out of their hands and we did everything we could in our power to play the game.

"The rules are if you don't fulfil your fixture then you only get the points from the games you play. It's unbelievable, it's not the right way to decide the league.

"I don't see why we can't fit it in before the end of the season on May 12. It's so frustrating because we've only lost once this season and I think we're the best team in the league."

Goals from Kurt Morlese and Clayton Dixon fired Boro into the final at Earlsmead on Monday against Bromley.

"The players have been fantastic and it's the best squad we have had," he said. "We've got some good youngsters and we are moving forward as a club.

"The players keep asking me about the double and a few have caught wind of it. But I don't want to dampen spirit ahead of the cup final."

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