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News briefly

Sarries set to face leaders

SARACENS host Premiership leaders Northampton Saints on Sunday at Vicarage Road. The Men in Black warmed up for the game with a 26-14 win at Leeds Carnegie on Sunday after tries from David Strettle and Schalk Brits. The Saints have won all three league matches this season and are certain to provide Sarries' toughest test yet.

Tigers battle to home points

KINGSBURY LONDON TIGERS earned a 2-0 home win over St Margaretsbury on Saturday. Pinto Moreira created the opening goal in the 39th minute when his cross found Paulius Olisauskas and he tapped in his fifth of the season. The second goal came four minutes from when Olisauskas netted a twice-taken penalty.

Finn tipped to get Ashes place

MIDDLESEX fast bowler Steve Finn is expected to be named in England's squad for the Ashes later today [Thursday]. The 21-year-old has held down a place in the Test side this summer and appears certain to travel to Australia. He will be joined in the squad by team-mates Andrew Strauss and Eoin

Wealdstone striker Burnell exits club

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

WEALDSTONE striker Danny Burnell has left the club after just three months to join Slough Town.

The former Chesham forward arrived in the summer but has struggled to hold down a regular spot in the side despite netting four goals in the recent FA Cup win over Tring.

Manager Gordon Bartlett admits his players are not performing and

they need to find a solution after a desperate start to the league campaign.

The Stones were widely tipped to mount a strong promotion challenge in the Ryman Premier this season but two defeats this week have left them much closer to the wrong end of the table.

Bartlett said: "I wish I could put my finger on it. I said that I thought this squad was good enough to challenge for promotion but at the moment I'm being proved a long way off. The players are capable but at the moment too many of them aren't performing to the standard they are capable of.

"I don't think it's down to systems, I think it is down to the players underperforming but we have to find a solution and find it quickly."

Wealdstone were well below par on Saturday as they went down 1-0 at Margate and they followed this up with a 3-0 home defeat to Carshalton.

Bartlett said: "I was extremely disappointed with Saturday. Our preparation wasn't the best because we left at 10.30 and only got their at .30pm but that is no excuse. It was an extremely lacklustre performance

where we didn't look like creating anything. I don't think we threatened their goal throughout the game. "It was very disappointing and I expected a response. It was certainly

better on Monday but losing 3-0 at home doesn't do your confidence the world of good. My biggest concern is the lack of ideas and our inability to create chances.

Bartlett takes his side to Chesham United on Saturday for their FA Cup second qualifying round tie. Chesham boss Andy Leese spent half a year as joint manager of Wealdstone five seasons ago and the match takes on greater significance after the Stones' poor league form.

The Stones boss said: "It was already important before we had a hiccup and we need to bounce back.'



Away defeat: Danny Burnell made one of his final appearances for the club in their

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Howell fumes at refereeing

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell hit out at the referee after his side were reduced to nine men in their 2-1 defeat at leaders Sutton United on Tuesday night.

The visitors found themselves 2-0 down inside the first ten minutes but Boro pulled one back before half time when Dewayne Clarke, who has returned for his third spell at the club, hit a stunning 35-yard strike.

But Boro were undone in the second half as debutant Clayton Dixon and captain Wayne Walters were both sent off for second bookings.

Howell said: "We played with nine

men thanks to a display of poor refereeing. Some of the officiating we are getting of late is absolutely ridiculous. But I'm proud of my players because they left everything on the pitch and because of the way they showed commitment and character.

"I had to make it very clear to the players that even though we lost it was a victory in defeat for us after the way we performed. We have had five sending offs in eight matches but they have been stupid, ridiculous decisions.

Clarke ended his short stay with Bore ham Wood after only making two starts for them. Howell accepts he is difficult to manage but believes he can work with the troublesome forward.

The manager added: "He is a difficult

player to handle so you have to understand him. He needs more man-management than the rest of the squad put together. But he has played two games since he's come back and has done well so far.

Boro travel to Redbridge in the FA Cup on Saturday.





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