

SPORT

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News briefly

Sarries to face Tigers again

SARACENS host champions Leicester Tigers on Sunday in a repeat of last year's Premiership final. The Men in Black have climbed up to fourth in the table after a run of three consecutive wins. Their latest victory came on Sunday when they ended Northampton Saints' unbeaten start. Derick Hougaard kicked all their points in their 24-17 victory at Vicarage Road.

Finn named in Ashes squad

STEVE FINN has been confirmed in England's Ashes squad. The 21-year-old Middlesex fast bowler was picked last week for the 16-man squad which will travel to Australia this winter. Finn has also been rewarded with a 12-month central contract after impressing during his first year of Test cricket.

Smith lands Junior Cup

BEN SMITH has been crowned English Junior County champion. The 17-year-old Harrow Weald golfer won the title at Woodhall Spa after birdies on the two closing holes gave him a six-under-par round of 67. Smith qualified for the competition after becoming Herts junior champion.

Wealdstone defeat Generals in replay

by SIMON MAIL
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WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett praised his players' attitudes after they put a major setback behind them to see off Chesham United in their FA Cup replay on Monday night.

The Stones were stung by a 97th minute equaliser in the 2-2 draw at the Meadow on Saturday but they responded impressively two days later when they eased past Chesham 4-1 at Grosvenor Vale to book a third qualifying round tie at unbeaten Metropolitan Police.

Bartlett said: "I thought we missed a great opportunity and when we conceded the equaliser it was a major blow for us. To concede so late was a real kick in the teeth for us. It was a major learning curve for the players in that they need to be professional in the last few minutes and not give late goals away.

"But I thought the response and attitude of the team was all I could ask for. They responded really well and I was delighted with the work ethic of the team."

The Stones opened the scoring in the replay after a brilliant run from Kieron Forbes who went on a surging 75-yard attack down the right wing before pulling the ball back for Scott Fitzgerald to find the net.

Wealdstone doubled their advantage just before half time when Fitzgerald flicked the ball on for Peter Dean to squeeze in the second goal.

The visitors gave themselves hope in the second half when Rob Bartley's header crashed in off the crossbar. But the Stones replied with their third goal when Lee Chappell calmly curled the ball home from the edge of the area.

Bartlett's side confirmed their place in the next round 15 minutes from time when Dean ran clear to round the goalkeeper for the fourth.

Wealdstone will look to give their Ryman Premier campaign a much-needed lift on Saturday when they host second-placed Lowestoft Town.

Bartlett added: "We go into every game hoping to do well and I still have faith in the squad. I couldn't tell you an awful lot about Lowestoft but we know they have made a good start and they will a difficult challenge."

In other news, striker Jon Douglas has left the club. The striker joined Wealdstone in the summer from Oxford City but was unable to make an impact in the first team.



Passionate encounter: Stones boss Gordon Bartlett saw his side concede a late equaliser at Chesham on Saturday.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Borough land Hampton test

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell is relishing the chance to cause an FA Cup upset after being paired with Hampton and Richmond Borough.

Boro will host the Blue Square South side on Saturday, October 9 after they earned a 2-1 victory at Redbridge in the second qualifying round on Saturday.

Howell said: "I wanted a home draw and it's a nice game for the club. Alan Devonshire [Hampton boss] is a good friend of mine who I speak to quite a lot. We have a good working relationship but that will count for nothing when they come down next week."

Boro took the lead at Redbridge after 34 minutes when Dewayne Clarke found strike partner Rocky Baptiste whose shot squeezed inside the post. The visitors dominated the match and created plenty of chances before adding the second when substitute Kurt Morlese lobbed the ball over the goalkeeper.

Pele Salmon reeled in Boro with a late goal but Howell's side deservedly held out for the win.

Boro visit Hastings United on Saturday before entertaining Aveley on Tuesday night and Howell is looking for two performances to take into the FA Cup.

The manager added: "Hastings is a difficult place to go and they have got a good squad there. But we're all travelling on the coach together and it will be good for the new lads to get to know each other.

"I think the league games are important going into the FA Cup tie. If we do well in the two matches then we will go into the cup raring to go. It's important to get the points and be in a positive frame of mind on the back of two good performances."

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