

News briefly

Henson closes in on Sarries move

SARACENS are close to agreeing a deal to sign Gavin Henson for the rest of the season. The Wales back, who is on unpaid leave from the Ospreys, spent Monday training with Sarries. He has not played rugby for 20 months but wants to make his comeback in a bid to play for his country in next year's World Cup. Saracens host Exeter Chiefs at Vicarage Road on Saturday.

Three-figure win for Harrow

HARROW RFC strengthened their position at the top of Herts Middlesex Three after crushing Cuffley 105-0. The side are the only team still unbeaten in the division and now have a four-point cushion in first place. Centre Sean Pratt was named man-of-the-match after scoring a hat-trick. In other action, the Lions won 12-0 at Chess Valley Seconds.

Villa star visits football course

ENGLAND winger Ashley Young paid a visit to a football coaching course last week. The Aston Villa star helped out the teenagers at Harrow School as part of the Forward Football programme. Places are still available for 15-17 year olds and anyone interested should contact Bob Hill on 07970 027787.

Brilliant Borough net Chesterfield cup clash

by SIMON MAIL
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HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell admits their 4-2 FA Cup scalp at Eastbourne Borough will go down as one of his greatest moments in football.

The Ryman Premier side booked their place in the first round of the competition for only the third time in their history and were rewarded with a lucrative home game against League Two table-toppers Chesterfield.

Howell, who was also at the club for their two other memorable runs in the FA Cup, said: "I'm chuffed because it was such an emotional day. I was pleased for the club and the players because they have done something that will go down in history.

"I would put that right at the top of my victories. That has to go down as one of, if not the, highlight to date. Everyone said Eastbourne were very good and nobody fancied us going there. To play the way we did was just unbelievable. The game was won in the first half hour."

Boro made a sensational start to the cup tie as they built up a 3-0 lead inside the first half hour. The opening goal came after only five minutes when Ryan Watts' cross was headed home by Rocky Baptiste.

The second goal came after 21 minutes when Troy Hewitt found the net from 20 yards out. A close-range finish from Hewitt capped an extraordinary start for Howell's side and the striker completed his hat-trick four minutes into the second half. Two consolation efforts from Eastbourne could not deny Boro a famous cup triumph.

Howell admitted it was an emotional moment for him after the death of his mother earlier this year.

"It's just been a really emotional experience," he said. "With losing my mum in Easter I had a serious think about things and it would have been nice if she had been able to celebrate a sunny day with Boro after helping me through some rainy days. It was tinged with sadness although I'm really happy obviously.

"I'm delighted for the players, who have made a lot of

sacrifices playing for very little financial reward. It is no secret that the club doesn't have a lot of money but some players have come up to me and said it was the best day of their life. It was heartfelt and very emotional.

"We've been working very hard to achieve something here. We have always been fighting an uphill battle and it is just nice to share in some happiness with the club. We have a lot of players that have never experienced something like that before. This is what dreams are made of."

Boro have confirmed the Chesterfield match will take place at Earlsmead on Saturday, November 6 with a 2pm kick off.

Howell said: "It is a great draw and we want to play them in our own back yard and do battle with them. We're just pleased it's going to go ahead."



Harrow Borough's players huddled together to celebrate a famous win at Eastbourne Borough on Saturday. Picture: MARK KETTLETY

Stones upset league leaders

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett is confident his side can finally put a winning run together after they defeated Ryman Premier leaders Kingstonian 2-1 on Monday night.

The Stones put their frustration, following a disappointing 1-1 draw against strugglers Maidstone United on Saturday, behind them with their first league victory in almost two months.

Wealdstone fell behind after four minutes but goals from Greg Ngoyi and Peter Dean turned the match around.

Bartlett said: "It was a very important win for us. Everyone was getting very negative which was a bit of a concern but we've only lost two out of ten games.

"We have proved, by beating the top team, that there is not a great deal of difference between the sides. Maybe the penny has dropped and they have to do it in every game.

"I wish I could put my finger on why it changed so much between Saturday and Monday. If I had a magic wand I would bottle it but at least they proved to themselves what they're capable of.

"Our first target was to get out of the bottom four and we've done that. We said at the weekend a run has to start somewhere and there is no better time than against the league leaders."

The Stones get another opportunity against Kingstonian on Sunday at Kingsmeadow in the FA Trophy.

Bartlett added: "Kingstonian have a lot of mobility and they are a very good side. But we were better than them on Monday.

"The last thing we want to do is face the same team two games on the trot. Every match is a priority and we are four games unbeaten so we need to keep the run going on Sunday."

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