# SPORT

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#### **News briefly**

### Saracens defeat sloppy Saints

SARACENS kept up their Premiership challenge with a superb 29-15 win at Northampton Saints on Saturday. The visitors trailed 10-6 at half time but they punished the Saints with a dominant second-half performance. Brad Barritt and Matt Stevens scored tries as they sealed their fifth consecutive Premiership win over Northampton. The Men in Black host bottom side Leeds Carnegie on Sunday afternoon.

#### Harrow aiming to extend lead

HARROW RFC will entertain Old Abbotstonians in a top of the table clash on Saturday. Harrow are currently first in Herts Middlesex Three after winning their 12 league games. They hold a 20-point lead over their rivals having played two games more.

#### Middlesex sign all-rounder

MIDDLESEX have given allrounder Steven Crook a oneyear contract. The former Lancashire and Northamptonshire player has been on trial at the club since the start of the year. His position will be reviewed in April.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

### **Boro slip up** at Concord

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell was at a loss to explain their poor performance in the defeat to Concord Rangers.

His side suffered a disappointing 3-0 reversal at Concord in the Ryman Premier on Saturday afternoon.

Boro went into the match in good form having climbed into the play-off zone but they were below par as they lost for the second time this season to Concord

ond time this season to Concord. Howell said: "I really don't know why but the whole performance was poor apart from Nick Jupp who made some excellent saves.

"Defensively we were poor, in midfield we were not at the races and up front we were lacklustre so it was a complete non-performance from the team."

The visitors had an early opportunity to take the lead when Ryan Watts sent a shot wide of the target.

But the hosts opened the scoring after 19 minutes when Tony Stokes hooked the ball over the goalkeeper.

Concord extended their lead five minutes later when Stokes turned provider and squared the ball for James Elmes to find the net. Boro thought they had pulled one back before half time but Daniel McGonigle's effort was inexplicably ruled out by the referee.

Dean Fenton had a great opportunity to get on the scoresheet after the restart but his diving header floated wide of the target.

But the home side killed off the contest in the 59th minute when Elmes found the net after a counter-attack.

To add to Boro's misery, Chris King mistimed a tackle with 20 minutes left and was given his second yellow card.

Concord nearly added a fourth goal late on but Jupp managed to save Stokes' shot.

David Howell's side face a tough challenge against secondplaced Bury Town at Earlsmead on Saturday. Boro should have good memories of their recent meeting as they earned a 5-2 away win over them earlier this month. But Howell added: "Just like

But Howell added: "Just like Horsham, Bury have a chance to do something about it playing us so quickly again. It is not a gimme for us because they are a very strong side who have more than held their own this season.

"Along with Lowestoft they have been one of the outstanding sides in the league this year."



Richard Jolly has been in remarkable scoring form since joining the Stones for his second spell at the club.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

## Stones earn away point

WEALDSTONE battled back to earn a 1-1 draw at Folkestone Invicta in the Ryman Premier on Tuesday night.

The Stones were 1-0 down to the strugglers at the break but they rescued a point after a second-half equaliser from Kurtney Brooks.

Wealdstone also salvaged a 3-3 draw at home to Canvey Island after an injury time equaliser on Saturday in the Ryman Premier. The hosts took the lead after 36 min-

utes when Richard Jolly headed home at the far post.

Wealdstone doubled their lead when Alan Massey's shot was saved but the defender followed up to tuck home the rebound.

Rob King netted a second-half penalty to halve the deficit and goalkeeper Jonathan North was forced off with an injury in the build up to the goal.

The visitors netted their equaliser 15 minutes from time and with five minutes left Jason Hallett fired them into the lead.

The Stones had to wait until the sixth minute of injury time to snatch the draw in a dramatic finale.

Jolly picked up the ball and the striker smashed an effort into the net to complete a thrilling end to the clash. It took Jolly's tally to ten goals in five league games for the club.

The Stones will be desperate to keep hold of him on loan but his form could lead to a swift return to Sutton.

Wealdstone travel to Kingstonian this weekend. Gordon Bartlett's side have already beaten them twice this season and will be confident of completing the clean sweep after putting together a sixmatch unbeaten league run.



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