



News briefly

Sarries topple Leicester Tigers

SARACENS claimed a dramatic 15-14 win at champions Leicester Tigers on Saturday. The Men in Black closed to within two points of the league leaders after posting their second win in a row at Welford Road. Five penalties from Alex Goode gave the visitors a slender lead despite a solo try from Manu Tuilagi.

Harrow RFC brush aside Chess Valley

HARROW RFC maintained their unbeaten run in Herts Middlesex Three after thrashing Chess Valley 42-0. The visitors had three men sin-binned in the first half but it did not stop them recording a 13th consecutive league victory.

Bartlett's book available to buy

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett's book has recently been published. 'Off the Bench' charts the story of his life as a non-league manager. The book is priced £14.99 and is available in the club megastore. It can also be ordered by calling Roger Slater on 01992 509105.

News immediately: harrowtimes.co.uk

Stones extend run to keep in play-off frame

by SIMON MAIL

WEALDSTONE manager Gordon Bartlett claims the players have the belief to mount a late promotion charge.

The Stones had a forgettable start to the season but a ten-match unbeaten run in the Ryman Premier has taken them to within five points of the play-offs.

Bartlett said: "It is the standard we expect to achieve. We under-achieved for the first few months this season and gave ourselves a mountain to climb.

"Now we are climbing it at the moment but whether we have enough time to reach the play-offs I don't know. But the important thing is the belief is there."

The Stones defeated league leaders Sutton United 2-1 on Saturday after a last-minute winner from Lee Chappell. Peter Dean headed home his 20th goal of the season before Sutton pegged them back.

Wealdstone drew 0-0 at home to Tonbridge Angels on Monday night but were left to rue a penalty miss from Dean in injury time.

Bartlett said: "If you had told me we would have got seven points after playing the Harrow

derby and then the leaders and Tonbridge, I would have bitten your hand off. But we could have had nine points. You have to look at the positives and we are ten games unbeaten and on a good run.

"We have been playing with a lot of confidence in the last few months. I was pleased with the side's character against Sutton and there was a little bit of pay-back after losing an injury time goal in the away match there this season."

Watford striker Gavin Massey was handed his debut in the draw after joining the club on loan for the rest of the season.

Bartlett said: "He made a lively start and had a couple of shots early on. He was obviously looking to make an impact. But this is a different type of football he is used to and he was up against one of the best defences in the league so it was a good learning curve."

The Stones travel to Aveley this weekend and Bartlett knows the importance of picking up results against the struggling sides.

He said: "It is all well and good taking points off the top sides but we need to take points against teams lower down the table."



Lee Chappell celebrates the Stones' late winner against leaders Sutton United.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Striker returns for Borough

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell believes enigmatic striker Jonathan Constant has grown up after making his comeback.

Constant left Borough last year after several run-ins with Howell but he recently rejoined the club.

Constant has scored nine goals in five reserve matches and he made an encouraging appearance as a substitute in Saturday's 1-0 win at Carshalton Athletic.

Howell said: "He did very well and I was pleasantly surprised with him. He is always a goal threat and it's pleasing to see him back.

"We have had our run-ins during the past but he went away and has done a lot of growing up."

Boro ended a run of three consecutive defeats with a hard-fought victory at Carshalton. The winning goal came after 28 minutes when Rocky Baptiste beat his marker to head past goalkeeper Craig Ross.

Howell also handed a debut to former Barnet midfielder Danny Hart and was encouraged by his first appearance.

He said: "He has not played since January so wasn't really match fit. I took him off after an hour but he did well. He has a good delivery and two good feet."

Boro entertain AFC Hornchurch on Saturday before facing back to back games against Tooting and Mitcham United. Howell believes these fixtures could be critical to whether they can stay in touch with the top-ten.

Howell said: "The aim is to get something out of them because if we do we will keep up with the top half of the table."

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