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News briefly

Sarries return to Premiership action

SARACENS play their first match for three weeks on Sunday when they host Newcastle Falcons. The Men in Black are in a strong position in the Premiership currently sitting second in the table. Sarries have won their last five league games and have not been beaten since January.

Junior side qualify for divisional final

HARROW RFC Under-17's have reached the London and SE Divisional final. The team edged to a 13-11 win over Ilford in a tight encounter. The final will be played in Farnborough on Sunday, April 3. The U-11's finished runners-up to Wasps at the Middlesex Festival.

Strauss leads side into quarter-finals

CAPTAIN Andrew Strauss will try to guide England past co-hosts Sri Lanka in their World Cup quarter final on Saturday. The Middlesex batsman is likely to be joined in the side by county team-mate Eoin Morgan. England reached the last eight after a win over the West Indies.

News immediately:
harrowtimes.co.uk

Boro stun Bury Town

by SIMON MAIL

HARROW BOROUGH manager David Howell believes his team have as good a chance as any of making the play-offs.

The Reds completed the double over second-placed Bury Town on Tuesday night to close within two points of the top-five.

Howell said: "The league table is so tight and it will keep changing constantly from week to week. But if we can keep winning then we will give ourselves as good a chance as any."

"As long as we can stay in touch with the group at the top, then we are in the running and it's all about timing our run for the end of the season. We are tucked away in the pack and we know we are still within touching distance."

Skipper Wayne Walters got the hosts off to a perfect start when he stroked the ball home from eight yards after just six minutes.

Boro sealed the 2-0 win in the second half when substitute Danny Hart drilled the ball past the goalkeeper.

Howell said: "It was a good performance and a well deserved win. It could have been a lot

more.

"Bury are one of the form teams and to beat them 7-2 on aggregate is a good feat. They have had a great season and probably feel they are assured a play-off place but with eight games to go nothing is assured."

Boro were beaten 3-2 at Tooting and Mitcham on Saturday in a game which Howell thought they should have won.

The visitors took an early lead through Kurt Morlese but three goals put the game beyond them before a late penalty by Rocky Baptiste.

"It was a missed opportunity," he said.

"It should have been over after the first 30 minutes when he had three one on ones and enough chances. That, coupled with poor defending, cost us the game."

Boro face a crucial home match against Ryman Premier play-off contenders Kingstonian on Saturday [1pm].

Howell added: "It's about beating your rivals and these are all six pointers."

"If we beat them then we go ahead of them but if we lose then it just makes it that much harder for us."



The Stones were reduced to ten men during their frustrating draw on Saturday.

Picture: STEVE FOSTER/WEALDSTONE FC

Stones sign Brunel winger

WEALDSTONE have signed Brunel University winger Peter Martin.

The right-sided player has joined until the end of the season, after impressing during several reserve games, and could be involved in their crucial match at Tonbridge Angels this weekend.

The Stones have gone on a 12-match unbeaten run in the Ryman Premier but badly need to extend the sequence at their third-placed rivals.

Stones boss Gordon Bartlett said: "With eight games to go realistically we need to win six of them [for the play-off]. They are one of our rivals so we have to aim to go there and get a win."

Wealdstone had to settle for a frustrating 1-1 draw at home to Folkestone Invicta on Saturday. Bartlett was far from impressed with both his side's performance and also the referee's display.

Peter Dean fired the hosts in front but Alan Massey appeared to be pushed to the ground in the build-up to Folkestone's 82nd minute equaliser. In the aftermath, Lee Chappell was booked for protesting and was subsequently dismissed for sarcastically clapping the referee.

Bartlett said: "I think it was a poor performance on our part. We certainly didn't play well but our performance was marginally better than the referee's. "I thought he had a poor game. I could only remember one bad tackle and yet we had six yellow cards and a red."

"There were too many things to moan about and he had a bad day. Referees are going to make mistakes but it's important they learn from it."

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